

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/20/2014 7:46:56 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, March 20, 2014

Morning Clips – Thursday, March 20, 2014

Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCSC: Gov Haley fires back after machinists union opens office for Boeing employees

<http://www.live5news.com/story/25022302/gov-haley-fires-back-after-machinists-union-opens-office-for-boeing-employees>

Corey Davis

Governor Nikki Haley responds to a machinists union opening an office in North Charleston to educate workers at Boeing. Haley's spokesperson Doug Mayer released a statement Wednesday:

Note: South Carolina has consistently proven we don't need big labor bullying our business community or trying to dictate how our state is run. Over the past three years we have announced \$11 billion in new capital investment, over 44,000 new jobs, and now have more people working than ever before - it's safe to say we are doing just fine without them.

Greenville News: BMW hints at expansion in Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140320/BUSINESS/303200006/BMW-hints-expansion-Upstate>

Woody White

Top BMW executives teased next week's announcement at the company's Greer plant by speaking Wednesday of a possible expansion of the big factory along Interstate 85. Chairman Norbert Reithofer and the company's chief financial officer both mentioned adding production capacity at the almost 20-year-old Upstate plant, where the German automaker assembles four models of its X vehicles.

Note: They include Reithofer, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: All signs point to major expansion at BMW's South Carolina factory

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC05/140319305/1010/all-signs-point-to-major-expansion-at-bmws-south-carolina-factory>

John McDermott

One of South Carolina's biggest private employers and exporters is gearing up to expand again in a move that would ripple all the way to the Charleston waterfront. Norbert Reithofer, chief executive officer of BMW AG, said Wednesday the German automaker is looking to increase production in the United States.

Note: He's scheduled to be joined at the Spartanburg County factory by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Gov. Nikki Haley, among other invited guests.

Rock Hill Herald: Groups team up for Rock Hill summer reading programs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/19/5787051/local-groups-team-up-for-rock.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

While the cold and dreary weather of the last few days may make it seem like summer is eons away, community groups in Rock Hill are already gearing up to develop the most extensive summer reading programs the area has ever seen, said leaders across the city.

Note: This state-mandated program was part of Gov. Nikki Haley's broader education plan released in January, and while it's wonderful that the governor and the state value summer reading, what isn't so wonderful is that, like many other state education mandates, this one isn't fully funded, Jaworowski said.

DSS Senate Hearing News:

Associated Press: SC Democratic senators: DSS leader should go

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=698SnDS2

Seanna Adcox

Testimony about a 4-year-old Richland County boy who was beaten to death after being returned to his parents from foster care prompted two Democratic senators Wednesday to urge the ouster of the

Department of Social Services' director.

Note: "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children," Doug Mayer said. "Gov. Haley has and will continue to support her efforts to protect and better the lives of South Carolina families and children."

Greenville News: Senator calls for DSS head to resign

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140320/NEWS03/303200008/Senator-calls-DSS-head-resign>

Tim Smith

Two of the state's leading coroners say the state Department of Social Services is failing to adequately protect the children of the state, allegations that are leading one state senator to ask the agency's director to step down.

Note: "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children and under Director Koller's watch child deaths have decreased 25 percent, adoptions have increased 11 percent, and we have successfully moved over 20,000 people from welfare to work," said Doug Mayer, a spokesman. "Gov. Haley has and will continue to support her efforts to protect and better the lives of South Carolina families and children."

Post and Courier: Senator calls for new leadership at DSS in wake of testimony from child welfare officials

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC1610/140319291/1177/senator-calls-for-new-leadership-at-dss-in-wake-of-testimony-from-child-welfare-officials>

Cynthia Roldan

A state senator on Wednesday called for the head of the Department of Social Services to step down or be fired. Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said he no longer has confidence in anything DSS staffers tell a Senate oversight panel and that the agency operates "in sort of a veil of secrecy."

Note: "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children and under Director Koller's watch child deaths have decreased 25 percent, adoptions have increased 11 percent, and we have successfully moved over 20,000 people from welfare to work," said Doug Mayer, Haley's spokesman. "Governor Haley has and will continue to support her efforts to protect and better the lives of South Carolina families and children."

Anderson Independent: S.C. senator calls for resignation of state social services chief

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/19/sc-senator-calls-for-resignation-of-state-social/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

A state senator called Wednesday for South Carolina Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller to resign. Democratic Sen. Joel Lourie of Columbia urged Koller to quit after a pair of coroners provided details about the deaths of two young children last year.

Note: A spokesman for Republican Gov. Nikki Haley came to Koller's defense Wednesday. "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children and under Director Koller's watch child deaths have decreased 25 percent, adoptions have increased 11 percent, and we have successfully moved over 20,000 people from welfare to work," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said in an emailed statement. "Governor Haley has and will continue to support her efforts to protect and better the lives of South Carolina families and children."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: Deep South Dems mount comeback with familiar names

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qDWLb9Bm

Bill Barrow

Democrats in the conservative Deep South are looking to recapture some old political magic in the 2014 elections. President Barack Obama's party is running candidates with familiar names, like Carter and Nunn in Georgia, in hopes of rebuilding clout where Republicans rule. Given their recent political struggles in the region, some Democrats say they have nothing to lose.

Note: In South Carolina, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen is trying to unseat Republican Nikki Haley four years after she beat him by 60,000 votes, a margin of 4.4 percent.

The State: Mike Campbell running for Lt. Gov., Henry McMaster could join

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336242/mike-campbell-running-for-lt-gov.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The lieutenant governor's race added the son of a South Carolina political legend and could attract a

Palmetto political veteran. Mike Campbell, son of the late Republican Gov. Carroll Campbell, filed Wednesday. Former Republican S.C. Attorney General Henry McMaster also is likely to run, his political consultant said.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Better roads equals better jobless rate

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Better-roads-equals-better-jobless-rate/8/154/24394>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley is correct in her assessment this week of the jobs situation in the Palmetto State. The drop in the unemployment rate is indeed a sign the state is moving in the right direction. For the eighth straight month, our state's jobless rate steadily declined, besting the national average by dropping from 6.6 percent in December to 6.4 percent.

Greenville News: Ensure young workers have skills

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140320/OPINION01/303200004/Editorial-Ensure-young-workers-skills>

Editorial

A report by the Brookings Institution reveals that younger Americans are faring poorly in the economic recovery even as overall unemployment rates generally continue to decline. The disparity is clearly evident in South Carolina, and this demonstrates a need for economic development leaders, education officials and elected officials to continue seeking ways to engage high school students and recent graduates and lead them on the path toward productivity.

Rock Hill Herald: Harrell's hearings should be public

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/19/5786532/harrells-hearings-should-be-public.html>

Editorial

One thing that can be said of S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell's attempt to bounce Attorney General Alan Wilson as the prosecutor in State Grand Jury proceedings against him: It's pretty weird. The State Grand Jury is investigating Harrell for possible misuse of campaign contributions and abuse of his legislative position.

Post and Courier: Reid leads the lying way

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140320/PC1002/140329992/1021/so-whos-lying-now>

Editorial

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid isn't the only politician prone to overstatement. But even by the bipartisan fact-stretching standards of the pontificating political class, the Nevada Democrat has displayed a shameful penchant for avoiding the truth.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Sunshine healthy for state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140320/PC1002/140329990/1021/sunshine-healthy-for-state>

Richard Eckstrom

This is "Sunshine Week," an annual observance of open-government laws. Each year, the week that includes March 16 is designated as a time to remind government officials about the laws that govern them - important laws that require meetings to be held in the open and public records to be made available to citizens who request them.

S.C. Senate Kills Anti-Obamacare Bill:

Associated Press: Bill fighting health care law fails in Senate

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

Seanna Adcox

An effort to delay implementation of the federal health care overhaul in South Carolina died late Wednesday in the state Senate. Senators voted 33-9 to defeat a House bill that initially sought to nullify the federal law in South Carolina. The vote came after a different version offered by Sen. Tom Davis to address constitutional concerns died on a technicality.

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate kills anti- 'Obamacare' efforts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC1603/140319244/1177/sc-senate-kills-anti-obamacare-efforts>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. Senate voted late Wednesday to scrap both a Senate and House effort that sought to undo parts of the Affordable Care Act, likely ending the contentious debate about the healthcare law for the year in the General Assembly and handing Republicans in both Houses a stinging defeat.

The State: Obamacare fight in SC busted by Senate rules

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336482/obamacare-fight-in-sc-busted-by.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self, Andrew Shain

South Carolina's main bill fighting the federal health care law died on a technicality Wednesday. Republican Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, the Senate president, struck down a Senate bill that tried to fix problems with a House version lawmakers believed would not survive a federal lawsuit. Left to vote on the House version, the Senate rejected the measure 33-9.

Anderson Independent: S.C. Senate kills bill opposing federal Affordable Care Act

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/19/sc-senate-kills-bill-opposing-federal-affordable/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The state Senate on Wednesday night rejected a bill that was meant to block implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act in South Carolina. The 33-9 vote to kill the measure came after a dramatic series of parliamentary twists and turns. The Senate's Republican majority managed to pass a motion to end debate on the measure earlier Wednesday evening.

Legislative Session News:

The State: SC press group's lawyer to seek access to secret House Speaker hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336071/sc-press-groups-lawyer-to-seek.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The S.C. Press Association has authorized a leading openness in government lawyer to seek access to a hearing before a judge who secretly has been asked to kick state Attorney General Alan Wilson off an ongoing state grand jury criminal investigation involving House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

The State: Emma's Law: To go easy, or not, on drunk drivers to be debated at Thursday House hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336256/emmas-law-to-go-easy-or-not-on.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Just how leniently to treat first-offense drunk drivers by exempting a large number of them from having to use an ignition interlock device on their cars is the topic of a Thursday morning hearing in the S.C. House of Representatives office building. A specific issue in play will be the blood alcohol content of people who are convicted of drunk driving on their first offense.

Rock Hill Herald: Winthrop faculty, president say S.C. budget cuts for gay-themed books would trample academic freedom

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/19/5786640/winthrop-faculty-president-say.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Winthrop University faculty members are joining with their counterparts at other state colleges in defense of academic freedom, which some say has come under fire this month in the South Carolina legislature. The state House voted earlier this month to take \$70,000 away from two colleges that assigned books with gay themes to freshmen students.

Index-Journal: Nicholson calls for TB testing

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Nicholson-calls-for-TB-testing/4/40/24396>

Sen. Floyd Nicholson, of Greenwood, introduced legislation in the South Carolina Senate to address the tuberculosis outbreak that took place in Greenwood County in 2013, his office announced Wednesday afternoon in a press release. The outbreak affected 73 individuals at Ninety Six Primary School, exposing 55 students and 18 staff members to the disease.

The State: Tentative deal reached on solar power in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336444/tentative-deal-reached-on-solar.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Solar energy boosters and utility representatives say they have broken a stalemate over expanding the use of sun power in South Carolina after years of disagreement. The tentative deal, which needs approval from the Legislature, would make it easier for homeowners and businesses to acquire the use of solar panels that could save money on monthly power bills.

WLTX: Bill Would Make Tougher Punishment For Contraband Providers

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/03/19/south-carolina-prison-contraband/6635483/>

Steven Dial

A bill that is up for debate in the state senate will upgrade the charges to a felony, for anyone caught providing contraband to a state prison. This video of inmates rapping in a state prison has raised concerns with lawmakers and tomorrow the bill will go before a senate committee.

Associated Press: Panel dismisses ethics charges against Eckstrom

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bSlqEpl1

Meg Kinnard

State ethics officials on Wednesday dismissed charges that South Carolina Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom used campaign money to accompany his girlfriend to the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC officials, Army general discuss Fort Jackson

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KhLFDja6

Susanne M. Schafer

The effect that proposed reductions in the ranks would have on Fort Jackson will be the topic of a meeting that includes the general in charge of the Army's largest training installation and South Carolina officials.

Aiken Standard: Board seeks answers on SRS waste shipments

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140319/AIK0101/140319277/1007/AIK0101/board-seeks-answers-on-srs-waste-shipments>

Derrek Asberry

Marilyn Parson, the chair of the Savannah River Site's Citizens Advisory Board, said the board will be looking for updates on how SRS waste shipments have been affected by recent accidents at a plant in New Mexico during next week's bimonthly meeting.

Post and Courier: Health care experts make case for Medicaid expansion at Roper Hospital

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC16/140319246/1177/health-care-experts-make-case-for-medicaid-expansion-at-roper-hospital>

Lauren Sausser

More than 200,000 poor, working adults will remain uninsured in South Carolina if conservative state leaders don't change their position on Medicaid expansion under Obamacare, a panel of health care experts said Wednesday.

Post and Courier: Quake that shook Summerville stronger than initially thought

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140319/PC16/140319248/1006/quake-rattles-summerville-area>

Dave Munday

The earthquake that shook houses and rattled residents in the Summerville area shortly after 6:30 p.m. Wednesday was stronger than initially thought. The U.S. Geological Survey initially reported the tremor at 2.4, then upgraded it to 2.5. By Wednesday night it was being reported as 3.0 on the Richter scale.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Coast Guard responding to oil spill in Georgetown

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_42f48594-afe7-11e3-873c-001a4bcf6878.html

Christopher McKagen

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) responded to a steel mill oil spill on the Sampit River in downtown Georgetown on Wednesday afternoon, according to a press release from the military organization Marilyn Fajardo, the deputy public affairs officer with USCG District 7 in Charleston, said information

The State: Richland council chairman: Economic development office has resulted in 15 new companies, 1,350 jobs

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/19/3336048/richland-council-chairman-economic.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Richland County's decision to establish an economic development office four years ago has reaped rewards in new jobs, chairman Norman Jackson said in a speech Wednesday. Jackson, giving a "State of the County" address, said the office has produced \$338 million in investment by 15 new companies generating 1,350 jobs.

National News:

LA Times: Primary over, Illinois GOP is in strong position in governor race

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-illinois-governor-20140319,0,7917271.story#ixzz2wV3T1Zdl>

Bob Sector

President Obama's Illinois has been one of the most reliably blue on the political color scale, but Tuesday's primary positioned Republicans for a strong shot at retaking the governor's mansion in a state mired in chronic fiscal disarray.

Associated Press: Analysis: Putin Tests Obama's Foreign Policy

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/analysis-putin-tests-obamas-foreign-policy>

Julie Pace

For President Barack Obama, Russia's aggressive annexation of Crimea is testing central tenets of his foreign policy philosophy: his belief in the power of direct diplomacy, his preference for using economic sanctions as punishment and his inclination to proceed cautiously in order to avoid creating larger long-term problems.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437