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Subject: Morning Clips – March 11, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley holding meetings with Greenwood constituents

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2zR4RCdd

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to spend some time in Greenwood to meet with constituents. On Tuesday afternoon, Haley is slated to hold one-on-one meetings at the Greenwood County Council Office. Those who wanted time with the Republican governor needed to make appointments on Monday.

Herald Independent: Fairfield museum director receives top state honor

http://www.heraldindependent.com/news/home_top-news/3823317/Fairfield-museum-director-receives-top-state-honor

Lucas Vance

Fairfield County Museum director Pelham Lyles was recently recognized as the Statewide Tourism Employee of the Year. Lyles was presented with the award by Jayne Scarborough, executive director of the Olde English District Tourism Commission.

Note: “It’s a great day in South Carolina when we can recognize our citizens whose hard work contributes so much to our state’s multi-billion dollar tourism industry,” Haley wrote. “Through your leadership at the Fairfield County Historical Museum you play a vital role in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of Fairfield County.”

Post and Courier: Charleston County students to have make-up day March 28

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319917/chas-county-students-to-have-make-up-day-march-28>

Brenda Rindge

Thanks to two shortened weeks earlier this year, March 28 will now be a school day for Charleston County students. The day was scheduled as a possible make-up day if needed, and as a teacher work day if it wasn't.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley could veto the measure but has indicated she will support it since it offers districts an option. Board Chair Cindy Bohn Coats said not taking action on March 28 now could leave the board scrambling to figure out make-up days, especially if Haley does not agree to forgive the two extra days.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Toward a flood insurance fix

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1002/140319924/1021/toward-a-flood-insurance-fix>
Editorial

Homeowners who need federal flood insurance can breathe easier. Following a tidal wave of complaints about enormous cost increases for many coastal homeowners' insurance plans, the House of Representatives rushed a rescue program to approval last week. It was telling that the three South Carolina representatives whose districts include the coastal region supported the House bill.

Rock Hill Herald: State's immigration law shot down

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/10/5756432/states-immigration-law-shot-down.html>

Editorial

South Carolina officials have acknowledged that several parts of the state's immigration law went too far in an attempt to crack down on undocumented immigrants. It should be clear that, for both legal and practical reasons, the state now should leave enforcement of most immigration laws to the federal government.

The State: Once a senator, always a senator

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317641/once-a-senator-always-a-senator.html>

Cindi Scoppe

One of my first memories of the S.C. Senate was the farewell address from Senate President Pro Tempore Rembert Dennis, in which he told his colleagues he would always think of himself as a senator. I feel certain he even instructed them that they should always refer to him as senator, but I didn't include that in the news article I wrote about it, so I can't say for sure.

Island Packet: "Flipping" classrooms might work in county

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/10/2993679/flipping-classrooms-might-work.html>

Editorial

It's yet to be seen if "flipping" classrooms will yield better results for students, but we believe it's worth a try, particularly in Beaufort County. In one of the latest education trends to hit the classroom, the lecture-like portion of a lesson is watched at home instead of at school.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Bill says state pays for SC presidential primaries

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cpjC4QCg

Seanna Adcox

Taxpayers would continue to at least partly fund South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primaries in the future under a bill backed by both major parties. The bill, which lawmakers advanced Monday to the full House Judiciary Committee, clarifies that the State Election Commission is responsible for conducting the contests.

Associated Press: SC House refuses to restore college cuts for books

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IZ5ZaTLc

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina House refused Monday to back down from plans to punish two public colleges in the budget for assigning freshmen to read books dealing with homosexuality. The House rejected multiple attempts to restore \$52,000 cut from the College of Charleston in the state budget, and \$17,142 cut from the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Post and Courier: SC House refuses to restore budget cuts to College of Charleston for book

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC1603/140319937/1031/sc-house-refuses-to-restore-budget-cuts-to-college-of-charleston-for-book>

Cynthia Roldan

It was a day of smooth sailing as the House of Representatives approved most sections of the state's budget with little discussion on individual items. Most discussion centered on four amendments introduced by Democrats who sought to have monies restored to the budgets of the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina in Spartanburg that were cut because of two controversial books.

The State: SC House votes to penalize colleges for gay-themed books

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317994/sc-house-votes-to-penalize-colleges.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The \$70,000 in money taken away from two colleges for assigning gay-themed books is a minuscule part of South Carolina's \$24 billion budget next year. But an effort to restore the money took up a majority of the first day of deliberations over the state's spending plan in the S.C. House Monday.

Sun News: North Myrtle Beach marketing grant not in state budget, yet

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/10/4085501/north-myrtle-beach-marketing-grant.html#storylink=cpy>

Steve Jones

The North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce's quest for more state money to lure tourists won't be satisfied by the House budget talks this week, but that doesn't mean it's over for this year. State Rep. Tracy Edge, R-North Myrtle Beach, said that he expects a new state revenue projection to show an additional \$200 million in income when it comes out in a couple of weeks, and Marc Jordan, president of the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, wants to be ready to compete for the money when the time comes.

The State: Proposal rejected to cut Lt. Gov.'s security detail

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317217/state-house-proposal-made-to-cut.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. House rejected a budget amendment that would have cut \$375,358 in funding for the lieutenant governor's security detail on July 1. Some representatives worried about how to pay for the State Law Enforcement Division agents who would be reassigned if taken off the detail. The amendment was turned down by a 95-16 vote.

Post and Courier: State budget could eliminate fees for paying local tax bills with credit cards

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319933/1177/state-budget-could-eliminate-fees-for-paying-local-tax-bills-with-credit-cards>

David Slade

A controversial provision in the South Carolina House's proposed 2014-15 budget, sponsored by Charleston-area lawmakers, would prohibit local governments from charging a fee when people pay their taxes with a credit card. Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties currently charge fees of up to 2.5 percent, and they all say those fees cover only what credit card issuers charge them.

Post and Courier: Crosstown overpass study proposed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319931/1006/crosstown-overpass-study-proposed>

State Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston, is introducing a joint resolution calling on the S.C. Department of Transportation to study building a pedestrian overpass at Coming Street and the Septima Clark Parkway, commonly called the Crosstown Expressway.

S.C. Political News:

Florence Morning News: SC GOP talks about how to sway voters

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_6fa1a5de-a8c3-11e3-9715-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The secret to garnering more votes for a political candidate never seemed much like a secret – with candidates and pundits figuring that making the loudest and baddest noise meant votes – but when trying to make someone consider a different political party the secret appears to be the opposite. Ekpo, a black Republican, told the all white and predominantly, if not entirely, Republican audience, that such tactics don't help diverse voices of the GOP—specifically black voters, but he understands that challenges exist.

Index-Journal: District 12 state Rep. Anne Parks will seek re-election

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/District-12-state-Rep--Anne-Parks-will-seek-re-election/4/40/24230>

Chris Trainor

Democratic District 12 state Rep. Anne Parks has been in the state Legislature for the better part of two decades. On Monday, she confirmed she plans to seek another two years. Parks said she does intend to file to seek re-election. Parks is in her 16th year as a state representative.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Gaye Holt to run for House District 34 seat

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140310/ARTICLES/140319976/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Gaye-Holt-to-run-for-House-District-34-seat>

Gaye Holt, who along with hundreds of other candidates was kicked off the ballot in 2012 as a result of a S. C. Supreme Court decision regarding election paperwork, announced Monday she will seek election to House District 34. The seat is currently held by Rep. Mike Forrester.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell responds to NAACP criticism over College of Charleston presidency

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140310/PC16/140319982/1177/lt-gov-glenn-mcconnell-responds-to-naacp-criticism-over-college-of-charleston-presidency>

Diane Knich

NAACP leaders say that if Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell is hired as the next president of the College of Charleston, they will work relentlessly to inform potential students and athletes nationwide about his connection to Confederate causes and his support of the Confederate battle flag flying on the Statehouse

grounds.

Times and Democrat: S.C. State moves to address SACS concerns

http://thetandd.com/news/s-c-state-moves-to-address-sacs-concerns/article_9345e446-a8d2-11e3-9545-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

South Carolina State University trustees have approved changes in the way they conduct business in advance of an April visit by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools officials. The accrediting agency placed S.C. State on warning last year. "We want to be as affirmative as possible in responding to SACS," President Thomas Elzey said Monday. "We want to be able to put ourselves in the best possible light and be as accurate as possible."

The State: Businessman critiques S.C. anti-business policies, proposed baseball stadium

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317926/prominent-businessman-critiques.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Prominent Columbia businessman and national shopping center developer Terry Brown told Rotarians Monday that clownish acts by top politicians and strange legislative policies tarnish South Carolina's reputation and may repel businesses from locating here. After his speech, Brown in an interview said he also has serious concerns about a proposal to spend millions of city taxpayer dollars to build a baseball stadium and parking garage on the historic city-owned Bull Street tract, which also is slated for a massive retail and housing project.

The State: Colon cancer prevention efforts expanding in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3317997/colon-cancer-prevention-efforts.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

The even better news is that increased funding and more participation by physicians this year will allow the network to increase the number of free colonoscopies it can provide – from about 100 per year to 800. Each of those procedures has the potential to send out ripples that will improve the health of many more than the patients checked.

Local News:

The State: City council opposes idea of Leon Lott running police

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/10/3316784/plan-proposes-to-put-sheriff-lott.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc, Noelle Phillips

A Columbia city councilman's proposal Monday to revisit the idea of turning the city's troubled police department over to the sheriff appears to be dying on the vine. A poll of the other six council members found that all but one rejected outright Councilman Cameron Runyan's suggestion. Runyan's proposal, announced during a news conference, comes as city manager Teresa Wilson is days away from hiring the city's eighth police chief since 2007.

Associated Press: Columbia councilman wants sheriff to run police

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HVqAv5UK

A Columbia city councilman is resurrecting a proposal that Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott run the city's police department. Councilman Cameron Runyan says Lott runs one of the best law enforcement agencies in the state and could help the scandal ridden department in South Carolina's largest city.

Island Packet: Jasper school district given no details in federal probe

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/10/2994204/jasper-school-district-given-no.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

An investigation by the FBI, the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS, and the S.C. Law Enforcement Division into alleged criminal activity in the Jasper County School District is ongoing, according to a school board leader. However, the district has not been given details as to the cause or subject of the investigation, school board chairwoman Berty Riley said in a statement Monday at the district's meeting.

Florence Morning News: Neighborhood redevelopment still at forefront for Florence city council

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_1f0b14dc-a8b1-11e3-81eb-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The need for neighborhood redevelopment is well known among Florence City Council members and city

officials, which is why years of work will yield a strategy later this year to create vibrant and sustainable neighborhoods to counter the blight plaguing many.

Anderson Independent: Oconee sales tax commission has hard questions for county library board
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/10/oconee-sales-tax-commission-has-hard-questions/?partner=RSS>

Ray Chandler

The county capital projects sales tax commission had hard questions Monday regarding the county library board's plans and cost estimates for an upgrade to the county library program. Commission Chairman Russell Price asked library board members whether they were aware that the County Planning Commission has recommended not funding the Seneca library to the extent of the board's request.

National News:

Washington Times: Hillary Clinton campaign got illicit funds from D.C. scandal figure
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/10/hillary-clinton-campaign-received-funds-jeffrey-th/?page=all#pagebreak>

Dave Boyer

Despite Hillary Rodham Clinton's promise that she had scrubbed illegal cash contributions from her 2008 presidential campaign, prosecutors revealed Monday that the mastermind of Mayor Vincent C. Gray's "shadow campaign" also funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to aid Mrs. Clinton's bid for the White House.

Associated Press: Senate Democrats aim ire at rich, obscure brothers
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NLikkdH

Charles Babington

Democratic Senate candidates, facing withering criticism on the national health care law, are gambling they can turn voters against two billionaire brothers funding the attacks - even if few Americans would recognize the pair on the street. In an accelerating counteroffensive stretching from the Senate chamber to Alaska, Democrats are denouncing Charles and David Koch, the key figures behind millions of dollars in conservative TV ads hammering Democratic candidates and their ties to President Barack Obama.

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