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Subject: Clips – Saturday, March 23, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The Item: Forum encourages local scholarship program

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/forum-encourages-local-scholarship-program/article_24db39d6-7d64-58ec-8956-ee098c8d31de.html?_dc=335216291015.9677

Raytevia Evans

The Sumter Teacher Forum is still encouraging the community and local businesses to help them raise funds for their first efforts in providing a scholarship for high school students interested in studying education in college.

Note: This year, the members have been focusing on advocacy, and as a part of that initiative more than 20 members recently traveled Columbia to meet with local representatives and Gov. Nikki Haley to discuss education in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Officials: Transparency, Accountability a must for DSS

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140323/PC1603/140329761/1031/officials-transparency-accountability-a-must-for-dss>

Cynthia Roldan

Two coroners sat before a Senate panel on Wednesday and accused the Department of Social Services of failing children in South Carolina. They detailed horrific incidents of children killed while in the custody of their guardians. The coroners called for reform at the agency.

Note: "Protecting our children is a team effort that requires transparent and open communication and that is what this legislation works to improve," said Doug Mayer, Haley spokesman. "There is nothing more important than the welfare of our children and this is a critical part of meeting that responsibility."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County Democrats get behind Sheheen

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140322/PC16/140329762/1031/charleston-democrats-get-behind-sheheen>

Schuyler Kropf

Lowcountry Democrats promised a united front for Vincent Sheheen against Republican Gov. Nikki Haley this fall as they stressed Charleston County remains blue in a sea of red. "We must speak together with a unified voice to shut down the Republican hate machine," said Brady Quirk-Garvan, who was elected the chairman of the Charleston County Democratic Party on Saturday without opposition.

Index-Journal: Progressive future

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Progressive-future/4/40/24477>

Kate Hruby

Democratic candidate for governor, Vincent Sheheen, stressed public education and infrastructure in a speech at the Greenwood County Democratic Convention Saturday. Sheheen, who is currently the state senator for District 27, Kershaw, ran against incumbent Nikki Haley in 2010, lost by a margin of four percent.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Obama's MOX debacle

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140322/PC1002/140329747/1021/obamas-mox-debacle>

Editorial

For 12 years, the federal government has been committed to building a plant that would process deadly weapons grade plutonium into fuel that can be used in commercial nuclear reactors. Now the administration

wants to pull the plug on the project, which is being developed at Savannah River Site.

Note: As Gov. Nikki Haley said at last week's press conference, "This is President Obama saying that he's going to follow the rules that he wants to follow and ignore the rules he doesn't want to follow."

Greenville News: 'Emma's Law' could save lives

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140323/OPINION01/303230011/Editorial-Emma-s-Law-could-save-lives>

Editorial

If South Carolina had a law that requires ignition interlocks on vehicles owned by first-time drunk driving offenders, a little girl named Emma Longstreet could still be alive. Longstreet, 6, was killed on her way to church on the morning of New Year's Day 2012 when 28-year-old Billy Patrick Hutto Jr. was driving with a blood-alcohol content of 0.208 and caused a three-vehicle wreck. Longstreet's father was injured in the accident.

The State: Do legislators really need amnesty for converting campaign funds to personal use?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/23/3340049/scoppe-do-legislators-really-need.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

We could talk about how frightfully far a House bill was able to advance before someone noticed that it could quash the Grand Jury investigation of House Speaker Bobby Harrell. Or we could talk about how this oversight involved the same subcommittee that nearly snookered the House into passing a bill a year ago that would have decriminalized the entire ethics law, not just the part that prohibits converting campaign funds to personal use, as critics allege Mr. Harrell did.

Florence Morning News: Where's the discussion on abortion bills?

http://www.scnw.com/opinion/article_34ca96a4-b143-11e3-ad6f-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Forty years of legal precedent matters little when it comes to one of the most emotionally wrought debates in our society. The landmark Roe v. Wade decision prohibits states from banning abortions before a fetus can survive outside the womb, which occurs at about 24 weeks after fertilization.

The State: Richland County going too far with tax breaks for apartment complexes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3340073/editorial-richland-county-going.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Richland County Council is treading on dangerous ground by stretching the definition of economic development to extend tax breaks to large apartment complexes. It makes no sense to redirect hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes annually that should go toward city and county services and schools in order to incent projects that are going to be built anyway and aren't likely to produce jobs.

Times and Democrat: Training is vital for those who run our schools

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/training-is-vital-for-those-who-run-our-schools/article_52e0cf8a-b177-11e3-8745-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: School district's expenses; OUR OPINION: Travel and related expenses by trustees and educators must be put in context. South Carolinians are all aboard with tourism as a major player in the state's economy. We open our arms to dollars spent on food and accommodations by any and every organization that is convinced that South Carolina is the place to hold conventions and conferences.

Legislative Session News:

The State: The Buzz: The SC Senate's next post-Obamacare battles

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3342169/the-buzz-the-sc-senates-next-post.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

After efforts to block the federal Affordable Care Act in South Carolina imploded this week, state senators will focus on getting their favorite bills passed before the May 1 deadline to have them considered in the House. The gambit? Get the bills into one of the calendar's few priority spots.

Associated Press: Martin: Law needed to avoid 2nd election debacle

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jtva7ohx

Seanna Adcox

Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin warns another election in South Carolina could be thrown into chaos unless the Legislature passes a law dealing with the structure of county election offices. His warning follows an opinion from the attorney general's office that a 2008 law on combined county election commissions and boards of voter registration is unconstitutional.

Post and Courier: In interview, S.C. House Speaker Harrell lashes out at Wilson, defends actions
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140322/PC1603/140329764/1031/in-interview-sc-house-speaker-harrell-lashes-out-at-wilson-defends-actions>

Jeremy Borden

Not long after S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell left a Richland County courtroom on Friday, the embattled Republican said he would continue to fight a long-running ethics probe into his conduct and the political motivations he believes are driving it.

The State: Judge gives Richland legislators April 1 deadline to resolve election board issue
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/21/3339932/judge-gives-richland-legislators.html#storylink=cpy>
A judge has given Richland legislators about a week to resolve their legal problems with the make-up of the county elections board. During a closely watched, 15-minute hearing, Judge Thomas Cooper urged the Richland County legislative delegation and its last-minute lawyer, Alex Postic, to move quickly. He said he expects a solution before April 1.

Anderson Independent: Ailing Anderson County legislator on the mend
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/22/ailing-anderson-county-legislator-on-the-mend/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown, Nikie Mayo

A series of serious kidney problems has caused state Rep. Mike Gambrell to miss about a dozen days of the legislative session, including this month's budget debate. Gambrell, a Republican from Honea Path, told the Independent Mail that doctors initially believed he had kidney stones. They later discovered that his right kidney was barely functioning.

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell names CofC President:

Associated Press: McConnell new head of College of Charleston
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=t7iS11aX

Bruce Smith

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, for years one of the most powerful men in the South Carolina General Assembly, was elected president of his alma mater, the College of Charleston. McConnell was elected by a unanimous 18-0 vote by the college board of trustees in Charleston on Saturday.

The State: McConnell named College of Charleston president
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3342264/mcconnell-named-college-of-charleston.html>

Andrew Shain

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, one of the most powerful and controversial state politicians in a generation, was named president at his alma mater, the College of Charleston, on Saturday. Trustees chose McConnell, 66, to succeed George Benson, who is leaving at the end of the June after leading the state's third-largest college for seven years.

The State: Exclusive: Glenn McConnell talks about his new job
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3342848/exclusive-glenn-mcconnell-talks.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell gave up his 34-year political career and to go all-in for the job he craved – president of his alma mater, the College of Charleston. An hour after he was hired by school trustees, McConnell, 66, spoke to The State newspaper about his plans for transforming the state's third-largest college with nearly 12,000 students:

Post and Courier: McConnell to lead College of Charleston
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140322/PC16/140329734/1177/mcconnell-to-lead-college-of-charleston>

Diane Knich

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell has been selected as the next president of the College of Charleston, despite

strong opposition from faculty members, some students and the local, state and national branches of the NAACP. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously Saturday to hire McConnell. But two of the board's 20 members, Jeff Schilz and John Wood, were not in the room at the time of the vote.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Former Gov. Hodges on MOX: Aiken deserves better

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140323/AIK0101/140329768/1004/former-gov-hodges-on-mox-aiken-deserves-better>

Derrek Asberry

Former South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges said he had a good reason for threatening to lie in the middle of the road to block shipments of plutonium from entering the Savannah River Site in 2002. The federal government's decision to put the MOX project in a cold stand-by has been met with relentless criticism by South Carolina politicians on all levels.

Post and Courier: Emails reveal frustrations, efforts in dealing with Ravenel Bridge closure during ice storms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140322/PC16/140329803/1177/emails-reveal-frustrations-efforts-in-dealing-with-ravenel-bridge-closure-during-ice-storms>

Glenn Smith, Prentiss Findlay

As a nasty winter storm bore down on the Lowcountry on Feb. 10, emergency and elected officials huddled inside Charleston City Hall to figure out what to do if clinging ice once again shut down the Ravenel Bridge, disrupting the lives of thousands of motorists.

The State: Duke to discuss coal ash woes in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3342206/duke-to-discuss-coal-ash-woes.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Reports linking Duke Energy to more contamination at an Upstate power plant surfaced late last week as the company and environmental groups prepared for a meeting with South Carolina regulators Monday to discuss Duke's troubles managing toxic coal ash ponds.

Local News:

Island Packet: Flood insurance legislation relieves Beaufort County homeowners, but only temporarily

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/22/3017415/flood-insurance-legislation-relieves.html#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

A new federal law is expected to temper skyrocketing flood insurance premiums that have burdened Beaufort County homeowners and hurt the real estate market, area insurance agents and Realtors say. The law, signed Friday by President Barack Obama, eases rising rates for those in older homes or ones whose ownership has changed.

The State: New Columbia police chief found success in WV with creative, holistic police work

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/22/3342428/columbia-132000-huntington-50000new.html#storylink=cpy>

Noelle Phillips

Seven years ago when Skip Holbrook took over the Huntington Police Department in West Virginia, he faced a big problem called Fairfield West. Drug dealers sold crack, heroin and oxycodone at all hours of the day and night. Prostitutes slinked along the streets of the neighborhood of nearly 2,000 residents.

Florence Morning News: Federal help there for storm-stricken Pee Dee farmers

http://www.scnow.com/news/business/article_745dd02e-b215-11e3-a6f3-0017a43b2370.html

John D. Russell

Many farmers in the Pee Dee were probably feeling left out in the cold as they learned federal money recently granted to help with expenses incurred by county and municipalities during the winter storm was not going to extend to them.

Greenville News: Schools chief up for new job

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140323/NEWS04/303230020/Schools-chief-up-new-job?nclick_check=1

Ron Barnett

After less than two years on the job, the superintendent of Pickens County Schools could be on her way out the door. Kelly Pew is one of three finalists chosen to be the next superintendent of York County District 3 in Rock Hill. She said she has interviewed for the job and will be there on Thursday and part of the day Friday for a more intensive round of interviews and public events as district officials and the community size her up.

National News:

Associated Press: Writing a budget might divide House Republicans

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Jo3FOzs7

Andrew Taylor

Divisions among Republicans over a budget deal and a shortfall in tax estimates are complicating the House GOP's efforts to advance a spending plan this spring. Party leaders insist the GOP-controlled House is moving full speed ahead to approve one, but it has fallen behind schedule amid concerns there will be enough votes to pass it.

Associated Press: Millions on the sidelines for big health care push

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JCskYa4q

Connie Cass

Alan Thacker wants health coverage, but he can't get help in his home state of Georgia. Mary Moscarello Gutierrez no longer can afford insurance in New Jersey. Justin Thompson of Utah refuses to be forced into the president's health law.

Greenville News: Voting rights probes to span entire US

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140323/NEWS03/303230018/Voting-rights-probes-span-entire-US>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

The Justice Department, no longer responsible for vetting election procedures in states with a history of racial discrimination, instead plans to proactively search the entire country for voting rights violations. Its new focus is the result of a June 2013 Supreme Court decision dismantling a Voting Rights Act provision that had required all or part of 15 states to get "pre-clearance" from Justice officials or a federal court before making any changes to their election procedures.

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