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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, April 14, 2014

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South Carolina News:

Associated Press: How SC students will be tested next year unknown

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ii9jCyKC

Seanna Adcox

A years-long effort by state officials to help create standardized tests for South Carolina's public schools may become moot, leaving uncertain how students will be tested next spring. More than 350 schools across 67 districts were slated to conduct a trial run this spring of the "Smarter Balanced" tests that will determine students' proficiency in math and reading standards known as Common Core.

Island Packet: SC scrambles to determine next year's state assessment

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/13/3058609/sc-scrambles-to-determine-next.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

The S.C. Board of Education and the S.C. Department of Education issued conflicting orders this month about which will pick the standardized test that will be used next year for statewide assessments. Until the conflict is settled, the Beaufort County School District is in a holding pattern, halting evaluations of a test designed to measure performance against Common Core standards.

Post and Courier: Mentally ill, in prison and locked away alone

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140413/PC16/140419799>

Cynthia Roldan, Glenn Smith

Dozens of eyes peered through cloudy panes of reinforced glass as a trio of corrections officers, encased in protective vests and face shields, shuffled along the cell block's concrete floor. One inmate pressed his face against a spider web of cracked glass and pounded furiously on the metal door, his voice echoing off the concrete walls.

Island Packet: Clemson, USCB to study Heritage's economic effect on Lowcountry

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/13/3058661/clemson-uscb-to-study-heritages.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

A study planned for this week's RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing will shed light on the economic punch the PGA Tour event brings to Hilton Head Island. With two years left on contracts with tournament sponsors RBC and Boeing, such information could be critical to brokering a new deal, tournament officials and study organizers say.

Greenville News: State agencies warned of 'Heartbleed' cyber threat

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/04/14/state-agencies-warned-heartbleed-cyber-threat/7688937/>

Tim Smith

The state's cyber security agency is warning other state agencies about a software bug that experts say could create havoc on websites using a certain type of secure connection. The encryption, used worldwide, makes it possible to make financial transactions, shop online and exchange email and sensitive data without fear of it being stolen.

Associated Press: SC Medicaid pays \$50,000 to monitor social media

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Z5EO7OJb

South Carolina's Medicaid agency is paying an institute at Clemson University \$50,000 to monitor Facebook, Twitter, bloggers and other social media. The state Department of Health and Human Services

said it is using the information to help with customer service, like finding people who are having trouble with their health coverage.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Rick Santorum making stops in South Carolina

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

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum is traveling to South Carolina for several Republican Party events. The Pennsylvania Republican plans to be in Charleston on Monday to give a keynote address at a lunch meeting of the Charleston County Republican Women.

Aiken Standard: Republican candidates to face each other for the first time

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140413/AIK0101/140419735/1004/republican-candidates-to-face-each-other-for-the-first-time>

While Lindsey Graham has been a U.S. Senator representing South Carolina for more than a decade and in Congress for two, he has a strong field of Republican primary challengers eager to unseat him in 2014. These formidable candidates will face each other for the first time on Wednesday, when the Aiken Republican Club hosts a special luncheon and debate downtown.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Shine light on 'dark money'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140414/PC1002/140419734/1021/shine-light-on-dark-money>

Editorial

That maxim was, is and will continue to be true. And when state and federal legislatures enact rules designed to control the structure of campaign finance, voters should be aware that this is akin to sending foxes to guard the henhouse.

Island Packet: County must improve tax collection predictions

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/13/3058200/county-must-improve-tax-collection.html?sp=/99/342/1750/>

Editorial

Act 388 and Beaufort County's property value reassessment has left the Beaufort County School District with a \$4.2 million hole in its budget -- money that will be plucked out of the school district's \$30 million reserve fund and could lead to a tax increase next year.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

USA Today: Scott vote on Burwell for HHS up in the air

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/14/scott-vote-burwell-hhs-air/7689559/>

David Jackson

Confirmation hearings for the next secretary of health and human services are likely to be more about the health care law than nominee Sylvia Mathews Burwell. Republicans are serving notice that they will use the Burwell hearings to spotlight what they call problems with the health care law, including canceled policies, higher premiums, and delay of some provisions.

Local News:

Greenville News: Public input sought on change to election process

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/14/public-input-sought-change-election-process/7689225/>

Anna Lee

The public will get the chance to weigh in on a proposal Monday that would change the way Greenville elects its politicians to municipal office. The city, one of a handful in the state that holds partisan races, has proposed to switch to a nonpartisan system in which party labels are left off the ballot and the candidate with the most votes would automatically be declared as the winner.

Associated Press: Population losses a concern in Orangeburg County

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1rRhH2Ht

Orangeburg County officials are trying to figure out why the county's population shrunk while the rest of the state grew by 3 percent. U.S. Census numbers released earlier this month showed Orangeburg County's 2013 population was 90,942 people, down about 1,500 from the 2010 census.

Post and Courier: Forum set in Summerville to air concerns about Common Core

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140413/PC16/140419686/1389/forum-set-to-air-concerns-about-common-core>

Brenda Rindge

Lowcountry Conservatives in Action will hold a forum on the Common Core standards at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday at the George H. Seago Jr. Library in Summerville. The discussion will be led by Linda Ensor, who has been researching the standards since 2010.

National News:

Politico: Struggling Dems waiting for Hillary in 2014

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/struggling-dems-waiting-for-hillary-in-2014-105662.html?hp=t1>

Maggie Haberman

She's one of the most sought-after surrogates of a party that can use all the help it can get in the midterms. But for reasons both personal and strategic, Hillary Clinton, potential Democratic 2016 standard-bearer, has largely resisted the tug of electoral politics — and likely won't hit the trail for Democratic candidates until the heat of election season this fall.

Washington Post: Democrats settle on fairness issues hoping to avoid a repeat of 2010 midterm disaster

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/democrats-settle-on-fairness-issues-hoping-to-avoid-a-repeat-of-2010-midterm-disaster/2014/04/13/bf4ca178-c188-11e3-bcec-b71ee10e9bc3_story.html?wprss=rss_politics

Wesley Lowery

On the defensive about their prospects in the midterm elections this fall, congressional Democrats have spent all of April savaging the Republican budget proposal, decrying the Koch brothers and championing a series of bills meant to ingratiate themselves to struggling middle-class voters.

Brian Symmes

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