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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, March 28, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Sun News: Haley touts education reform plan on Georgetown visit

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/27/4126233/haley-touts-education-reform-plan.html?sp=/99/134/#storylink=cpy>

Vicki Grooms

Gov. Nikki Haley said South Carolina must educate all of its children, regardless of where they live, as she explained parts of her K-12 Education Reform Initiative during a visit to Georgetown County Wednesday afternoon. Haley spoke to the Rotary Club of Pawleys Island before touring Coastal Montessori Charter School, which is in its second year of operation under the Georgetown County School District.

Note: "This is not about picking sides, it's about how do you strengthen all of education," Haley said. "The state's charter schools are proven to help kids in poverty, and if this works for them, we want to pick them up – it's just a different way of learning."

Associated Press: GOP governors back Adelson on online gambling

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3353293/gop-governors-back-adelson-on.html>

Kevin Freking

Three Republican governors who weren't invited to GOP super donor Sheldon Adelson's political gathering in Las Vegas this week are nonetheless trumpeting their agreement with him against Internet gambling.

Note: "Gov. Haley has long opposed expanding gambling of any kind in South Carolina and this effort is no different," spokesman Doug Mayer said. "This is about the Obama administration reinterpreting decades' worth of legal precedent, and South Carolinians deserve to have a change of this magnitude debated and decided by their elected representatives - not forced upon them by a lawyer."

Associated Press: BMW plans major expansion announcement at SC plant

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

BMW officials are preparing to announce an expansion of its South Carolina plant. BMW Group Chairman Norbert Reithofer is joining Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker at the automaker's plant in Greer for the Friday afternoon announcement.

Greenville News: Expected BMW expansion to be announced today

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/BUSINESS/303280007/Expected-BMW-expansion-announced-today?nclick_check=1

Woody White

Still growing in its last teenage year, the Upstate's BMW plant will get a new assignment today from the German automaker. Company Chairman Norbert Reithofer, U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and Gov. Nikki Haley will be on hand in Greer as BMW is expected to announce the X7 and the construction plans needed to take its biggest SUV yet from conception to showrooms.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: McMaster enters race for SC lieutenant governor

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

Seanna Adcox

Former Attorney General Henry McMaster filed paperwork Thursday to run for lieutenant governor, four years after his unsuccessful bid for governor. He said he has the experience needed for the state's No. 2 post. All three candidates have ties to Gov. Nikki Haley, who is seeking a second term in a rematch against Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Camden.

The State: SC Politics: SC GOP seeks records of Richland County elections office communications
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/27/3353010/sc-politics-sc-gop-seeks-records.html#storylink=cpy>
S.C. GOP chairman Matt Moore said he has embarked on a campaign to get records about possible nepotism and political interference in the operations of the Richland County elections office. His first request: all emails, text messages, phone messages, voicemails or other records reflecting communications involving state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, since Jan. 1, 2011.

Rock Hill Herald: Former York County Council member to run for Scott's U.S. Senate seat
<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/27/5813780/former-york-county-council-member.html?sp=/100/104/109/#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

A former York County Council member and Rock Hill native is challenging U.S. Sen. Tim Scott for his seat. Sidney Moore, 65, is one of two Democratic challengers who have filed for the Senate post with the state Election Commission as of Thursday afternoon. The filing period closes Sunday.

Times and Democrat: DeFelice again challenges Weathers for ag position
http://thetandd.com/news/local/defelice-again-challenges-weathers-for-ag-position/article_6b9788c4-b623-11e3-92f5-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

Two challengers have filed to run against S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers, a Bowman Republican seeking re-election. Joe Farmer, a Republican from Greenville, and Emile DeFelice of Columbia, an American Party member, have filed for the seat. DeFelice lost to Weathers in a 2006 run for the state's Commissioner of Agriculture. DeFelice ran as a Democrat then.

Post and Courier: Welcome to S.C.'s Most Republican County: Pickens voters are Republican all the way
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1610/140329401/1177/welcome-to-scs-most-republican-county-pickens-voters-are-republican-all-the-way>

Robert Behre

Anyone wondering why Pickens County voters gave Republican Mitt Romney and Gov. Nikki Haley their biggest margins in South Carolina might want to have lunch at Spangler Grocery on Walhalla Highway. From the street, it looks more like a convenience store. Several pick-ups are often parked in front, but those who walk by the grocery counter can find a lunch counter that offers a tasty cheeseburger.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Coal ash problem needs attention
http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/OPINION01/303280003/Editorial-Coal-ash-problem-needs-attention?nclick_check=1

Editorial

Recent incidents in North Carolina that have caused coal ash being stored in ponds by Duke Energy to leak into waterways present a strong case for utilities to better secure those wastes and for the federal government to act on reasonable rules for disposing of the carcinogenic material.

Post and Courier: Advancing solar power in S.C.
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1002/140329381/1022/advancing-solar-power-in-sc>
Editorial

A glimmer of sunlight has appeared in the stormy debate about solar energy in South Carolina. Solar energy advocates and utility representatives, long at odds with each other, have come to a compromise, which bodes well for the state. The deal still needs to be approved by the Legislature and checked out by the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff.

Post and Courier: New job gets correct focus
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1002/140329382/1022/new-job-gets-correct-focus>
Editorial

Glenn McConnell got a passing grade on his first test as president-elect of the College of Charleston when he abandoned the idea of briefly holding onto the lieutenant governor's job after taking the college's helm around July 1.

Aiken Standard: Road repair debate needs deeper focus

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140328/AIK0201/140329417/1018/AIK02/editorial-road-repair-debate-needs-deeper-focus>

Editorial

Upgrades along I-20 that are set to begin in April are long overdue, but the project also puts another spotlight on the need to address infrastructure across the state. Nearly \$1.7 million was approved for I-20 repairs between mile markers 13 and 22, which is certainly warranted, but that funding should be part of a broader scope of improvements.

Times and Democrat: ACA deadline extension adds fuel for critics

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/aca-deadline-extension-adds-fuel-for-critics/article_ff6c44c8-b62c-11e3-aff8-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Affordable Care Act; OUR OPINION: Deadline makes news, but dollars available to help people should not be ignored. The clock is ticking toward the March 31 deadline to have health insurance or face financial penalties. Only the deadline is not exactly a firm deadline anymore.

Times and Democrat (Guest Column): Better pay for state workers is priority

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/better-pay-for-state-workers-is-priority/article_fee1724a-b62b-11e3-a6cf-001a4bcf887a.html

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter

What I want to know is, why are the employees at the Forestry Commission or law enforcement so much different from the 40,000 employees at other agencies that provide critical and essential services to South Carolina's 4.7 million citizens? S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley released her \$6.6 billion proposed budget in January. Firefighters with the State Forestry Commission would receive a pay increase under Haley's plan.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

National Journal: Mulvaney Angling to Lead House Conservatives in Next Congress

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/daily/mulvaney-angling-to-lead-house-conservatives-in-next-congress-20140327>

Tim Alberta

Rep. Mick Mulvaney of South Carolina will seek the chairmanship of the Republican Study Committee in the 114th Congress, National Journal has learned, the first significant measure of internal campaigning amid a season marked by quiet, cautious jostling for positions in the next session.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Lt. Gov. McConnell says he won't hold 2 jobs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FLWdxWz4

Seanna Adcox

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell said Thursday that when he is needed full-time at the College of Charleston, he'll leave his state office, ending speculation that he'd keep that job until voters replace him. The college's board of trustees selected McConnell on Saturday to succeed George Benson, who is stepping down July 1 after six years as president.

Greenville News: Solar bill clears first hurdle in Senate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/NEWS/303280006/Solar-bill-clears-first-hurdle-Senate>

Nathaniel Cary

Sun power took a step closer to reality for more South Carolinians on Thursday after a solar bill that represents a compromise between pro-solar groups and utilities was officially introduced and passed by a Senate subcommittee.

Aiken Standard: Sales tax option moves to S.C. House

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140328/AIK0101/140329389/1004/sales-tax-option-moves-to-sc-house>

Rob Novit

The Aiken County Board of Education's hopes for the authority to call for a penny sales tax referendum took a big turn for the better on Thursday. The S.C. Senate passed the third reading of a bill that will achieve just that. The measure will go on to the S.C. House's Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday and should

reach the full House by early May, said S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken.

The State: Forecast looks sunny for SC solar power bill

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/27/3352815/forecast-looks-sunny-for-sc-solar.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

A solar energy bill that boosters say will expand South Carolina's use of sun power breezed through a Senate subcommittee Thursday, putting the legislation on a faster pace for approval by the Legislature. After years of disputes, solar backers and major power companies have tentatively agreed to support the compromise plan.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Glenn McConnell choice as president of College of Charleston draws fire from Southern Poverty Law Center

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140327/PC16/140329383/1006/mcconnell-draws-fire-from-southern-poverty-law-center>

Schuyler Kropf

Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell's selection as the next College of Charleston president is drawing fire from the Southern Poverty Law Center, one of the nation's premier defenders of civil rights which also concentrates on hate organizations.

Associated Press: SC prisons want mental health ruling reconsidered

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xDIV2uUJ

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina prison officials are telling a judge why he should reconsider a ruling over how to deal with inmates' mental health treatment. Circuit Judge Michael Baxley has scheduled a hearing for Friday on the request by the state Department of Corrections.

Associated Press: SC to release state unemployment for February

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iXnsJ0xd

South Carolina officials are set to release the state's unemployment rate for February. The Department of Employment and Workforce on Friday is expected to say what South Carolina's jobless rate was last month. In January, South Carolina's unemployment rate went down for the eighth month in a row, dipping to 6.4 percent.

Post and Courier: S.C. health care industry works toward elusive goal of price transparency

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140327/PC16/140329426/1177/sc-health-care-industry-works-toward-elusive-goal-of-price-transparency>

Lauren Sausser

Naomi Radcliff had been coughing for a year and a half when her doctor referred her to an ear, nose and throat specialist in February. Both her primary care doctor and the specialist are employed by Medical University Hospital, where Radcliff has been a patient for 17 years, so she was confused when the hospital billed her Medicare plan \$326 for a new patient appointment.

Local News:

Greenville News: Tax hike considered for roads projects

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/NEWS/303280010/Tax-hike-considered-roads-projects>

Rudolph Bell

A plan to reduce congestion on Woodruff Road and a pedestrian bridge for Hampton Avenue Extension are among the projects on a new list of what might be funded with a possible 1 percent sales tax hike in Greenville County.

National News:

Associated Press: Poll: Obama health law fails to gain support

<http://news.yahoo.com/poll-obama-health-law-fails-gain-support-070305854.html>

Ricardo-Alonso-Zaldivar

Public support for President Barack Obama's health care law is languishing at its lowest level since passage

of the landmark legislation four years ago, according to a new poll. The Associated Press-GfK survey finds that 26 percent of Americans support the Affordable Care Act.

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