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To:
Date: 3/14/2014 8:02:23 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, March 14, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Haley signs bill to give military homeowners in SC tax break

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3323560/haley-signs-bill-to-give-military.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has signed into law a bill designed to give military homeowners a tax break on homes they couldn't sell before being deployed. Haley signed the bill Thursday. The law allows military homeowners to pay the owner-occupied property tax rate of 4 percent instead of the 6 percent rental rate.

Note: "Our military men and women are one of our state's biggest assets, and it's only right that we provided them with the kind of common sense tax relief that works to lessen the burden of their service for them and their families," Haley said in a press release.

The Item: Haley signs tax relief bill

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/haley-signs-tax-relief-bill/article_4c20c871-0215-535b-9979-f288a08e68e5.html

Braden Bunch

South Carolina-based military personnel unable to sell their homes after being reassigned elsewhere will no longer need to worry about skyrocketing property taxes. Gov. Nikki Haley officially signed the Military Homeowner Protection Act on Thursday, allowing military homeowners to keep their property in the lower, owner-occupied tax category, even if they are renting out their former homes.

Note: "Our military men and women are one of our state's biggest assets, and it's only right that we provided them with the kind of common-sense tax relief that works to lessen the burden of their service for them and their families," Haley said. "This is about taking care of the people who take care of us, and I thank Rep. Murrell Smith for his leadership on this issue."

Island Packet: New law gives property tax relief to active-duty military

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/13/3000327/new-law-gives-property-tax-relief.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

South Carolina military members will get a tax break on homes they couldn't sell before being deployed, thanks to a law signed Thursday by Gov. Nikki Haley. The law allows military homeowners to pay the owner-occupied property tax rate of 4 percent instead of the 6 percent rate charged to second homes.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: BMW might begin production on new vehicle at Spartanburg County plant

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140313/ARTICLES/140319860/0/search>

Trevor Anderson

A new vehicle model – possibly the 3 Series or 5 Series – could be coming to Germany-based BMW Group's Spartanburg County manufacturing plant. BMW Chairman Norbert Reithofer is scheduled to speak during the event, along with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker; Gov. Nikki Haley; Harald Krueger, head of BMW's global production; and newly appointed BMW Manufacturing Co. President Manfred Erlacher.

Greenville News: BMW to make 'significant' announcement at Greer plant

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140313/BUSINESS/303130071/BMW-make-significant-announcement-Greer-plant>

Woody White

BMW said today it would make a "significant economic and product announcement" at its Greer assembly plant on March 28. The German automaker gave no other details in a "request for coverage" other than a list of speakers. They include BMW Group chairman Norbert Reithofer, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Index-Journal: McCormick County is certified work ready

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Default/Homepage-Rotating-Articles/Article/McCormick-County-is-certified-work-ready/-3/225/24296>

Frank Bumb

McCormick County is the only county out of South Carolina's 46 counties to not receive one of the 43,000 new jobs created under Gov. Nikki Haley. But a recent certification will provide a powerful tool in bringing jobs to the county.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Aiken Standard: Sheheen supports MOX in letter to Obama

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140313/AIK0101/140319654/sheheen-supports-mox-in-letter-to-obama>

Derrek Asberry

S.C. Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D–Camden, is the latest advocate to voice his disapproval of the proposal to freeze funding for the MOX facility currently under construction at the Savannah River Site. In response, Sheheen, who is challenging Gov. Nikki Haley in this year's election, wrote a letter to Obama. Dated March 12, the letter said the \$221 million is far below what is needed to continue construction and operations at the facility.

The State: Despite 'ambiguously gay' barb, four Graham foes unite

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3324965/despite-ambiguously-gay-barb-four.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A gay barb lobbed at U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham by the most unknown of his June Republican primary challengers will not deter a pact of support some of them made Thursday. Four of the Seneca Republican's challengers pledged Thursday at the State House to endorse whoever among them makes it into a runoff with Graham – if the pack can hold the two-term incumbent to half the vote.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard (Guest Column): Termination of MOX will be dangerous step

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140313/AIK02/140319688/1018/AIK02/column-termination-of-mox-will-be-dangerous-step>

Rep. Joe Wilson

While it is an understatement to say that grave reservations exist regarding his foreign policy platform, South Carolina's Second Congressional District is directly impacted by the president's inconsistency. Once again, the administration is showing weakness by choosing to leave nuclear weapons grade material in the Palmetto State.

Florence Morning News: Might be time to move from MOX site

http://www.snow.com/opinion/article_c62f2dc4-aaf6-11e3-a3af-0017a43b2370.html

Editorial

Billions have gone into a project to turn plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel at the Savannah River Site. It'll take billions more to finish it, but that hasn't stopped several South Carolina Republican leaders from locking arms to try and find a way to keep the costly venture afloat.

Greenville News: Nonpartisan elections can work

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140314/OPINION01/303140003/Editorial-Nonpartisan-elections-can-work>

Editorial

Greenville City Council had a rare disagreement this week over the proposed move to nonpartisan city elections. The concerns that were expressed needed to be heard but should not stop the seemingly inevitable move away from partisan elections beginning next year.

The State: Columbia, SC leaders can turn things around

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3324419/bolton-columbia-sc-leaders-can.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

While not all is well in our capital city, not all is lost either. Columbia has many bright minds and dedicated

citizens who love the city and want to see it not simply succeed, but exceed. And it has elected officials who, while some have made questionable decisions or gotten mired in petty squabbles or engaged issues not in the best interest of the city, also want Columbia to do well.

Legislative Session News:

The State: Civic groups alarmed by Harrell secret hearing request

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3324590/civic-groups-alarmed-by-harrell.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Officials of five statewide citizen activist and open-government groups Thursday decried a secret effort by House Speaker Bobby Harrell get a state judge to disqualify Attorney General Alan Wilson as prosecutor in the State Grand Jury investigation of Harrell's possible misuse of campaign funds. Without public notice, Harrell's defense team asked Judge Robert Hood to disqualify Wilson and then appoint another prosecutor to handle the case.

Post and Courier: Side fight in Harrell case should be public, media lawyer says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140313/PC1610/140319688/1031/side-fight-in-harrell-case-should-be-public-media-lawyer-says>

Schuyler Kropf

The next duel over House Speaker Bobby Harrell's state grand jury investigation could - and should - play out in public, a media rights attorney says. S.C. Press Association lawyer Jay Bender says the emerging fight between Harrell's attorneys and Attorney General Alan Wilson should be seen in open court.

Greenville News: Abortion bill advances in state Senate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140314/NEWS03/303130037/Abortion-bill-advances-state-Senate>

Tim Smith

A bill that would require doctors in abortion clinics in the state to be board-certified obstetricians and gynecologists with area hospital admitting privileges is advancing in the Senate. A Senate medical affairs subcommittee approved the bill without taking testimony or debate after the panel's chairman, Sen. Ray Cleary of Georgetown, said he was asked to move the bill by the chairman of the full committee, Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Florence Morning News: Rice's subcommittee hears of S.C. manufacturing performance

http://www.snow.com/news/politics/article_bb6aca82-ab10-11e3-a04e-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C. 7, chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access, led a congressional hearing Thursday that focused on the return of domestic manufacturing, something South Carolina can attest to over the past decade.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: DOT storm clean-up costs may exceed \$160 million

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140313/PC16/140319683/1006/>

Prentiss Findlay

S.C. Department of Transportation debris removal costs for two ice storms last month may exceed \$160 million, the DOT said Thursday. DOT said it will work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure maximum reimbursement of costs associated with the effort.

Greenville News: Hitt touts benefits of investing in US manufacturing

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140314/BUSINESS/303140009/Hitt-touts-benefits-investing-US-manufacturing>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

South Carolina's recent success in attracting new manufacturers is due in part to government investments to prepare sites, build infrastructure and train the work force, the state's chief recruiter told Congress on Thursday.

Post and Courier: McConnell takes questions from College of Charleston students, faculty, staff

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140313/PC16/140319687/1177/mcconnell-takes-questions-from-college-of-charleston-students-faculty-staff>

Diane Knich

While fending off pointed questions about his past, Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell says the years he spent leading the state Senate prepared him well to lead the College of Charleston. McConnell, one of three finalists for the school's presidency, addressed and took questions from hundreds of students and faculty, staff and community members Thursday at the downtown campus.

Index-Journal: De la Howe responds

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/De-la-Howe-responds/4/40/24292>

Kate Hruby

The John de la Howe board of trustees approved a response to the school's recent placement under the Department of Juvenile Justice during a special board meeting Thursday afternoon. Board chairwoman Barbara Devinney introduced newly appointed board member Patricia Silva. Silva, who was confirmed Feb. 19 by the state Senate, is the fifth board member for the school.

Associated Press: School board responds to DJJ takeover proposal

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

The board of a residential public school for troubled teens opposes legislators' move to put the Department of Juvenile Justice temporarily in charge. In a statement issued Thursday, the chairwoman of John de la Howe School in McCormick said the proposal sends the wrong message to students and families.

The State: Army's recruiting school moving to Fort Knox from Columbia's Fort Jackson

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3323570/armys-recruiting-school-moving.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

The U.S. Army's Recruiting and Retention School and its 92 employees will move in October from Fort Jackson to Fort Knox, Ky., the military confirmed Thursday. The relocation of the school to the home of its parent command will save the Army \$14 million annually with a projected savings of \$138 million over a 10-year period, the Army said in a press release.

Associated Press: Fort Jackson loses 92 jobs in recruiting move

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

The Army's largest training installation is losing 92 jobs to Fort Knox. Fort Jackson spokesman Patrick Jones said Thursday there are 67 military and 25 civilian positions involved at the Army's Recruiting and Retention School, which is moving by Oct. 1.

Anderson Independent: Clemson team developing cheap diabetes monitoring

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/13/clemson-team-developing-cheap-diabetes/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

A research team of Clemson University faculty and students have come up with a cheap way for diabetics in the developing world to monitor their blood sugar. The technology could improve quality of life for diabetes sufferers around the globe and reduce public spending on the treatment of related diseases.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Loss of benefits could impact same-sex marriage ban in South Carolina

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140313/ARTICLES/140319868/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Loss-of-benefits-could-impact-same-sex-marriage-ban-in-South-Carolina>

Daniel J. Gross

A Spartanburg attorney is hoping a case involving a Mauldin woman's immediate loss of benefits after her same-sex relationship ended will overturn the state's laws against gay marriage. John Reckenbeil, representing Swicegood, filed a complaint Thursday in Greenville County Family Court to have Swicegood's relationship recognized as a common law marriage to grant her a legal divorce.

Local News:

The State: Santiago resigns; will CPD turmoil end?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/13/3324444/santiago-steps-down-as-interim.html>

Noelle Phillips

People who have been following the turmoil coming out of the Columbia Police Department the past few

months hope the departure of Ruben Santiago, the embattled interim chief, is a step toward fixing what ails the agency. Santiago's resignation comes just days before city manager Teresa Wilson is set to name a new chief.

Greenville News: Finding jobs in Greenville metro area a challenge for young adults

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140314/BUSINESS/303140007/Finding-jobs-Greenville-metro-area-challenge-young-adults>

David Dykes, Angelia Davis

The labor market for young people has declined more dramatically than jobless rates show, and the Greenville metropolitan area ranks among the nation's 10 metro areas with the lowest employment rates of young adults ages 20-24, according to a new report.

Post and Courier: Employment of young workers has plunged as older workers remain in entry-level jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140314/PC16/140319681/1177/employment-of-young-workers-has-plunged-as-older-workers-remain-in-entry-level-jobs>

David Slade

Five years after the Great Recession officially ended, young people still face a particularly hard struggle to find jobs, with employment levels for the youngest of workers plunging to post-World War II lows. In addition to the challenges faced by all job-seekers, young people are finding that more experienced workers are holding on to what were once considered entry-level jobs, and people old enough for Social Security have returned to the workplace.

Anderson Independent: Teachers want to expand teen pregnancy program

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/13/teachers-want-to-expand-teen-pregnancy-program/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

Organizers were confident Thursday night's Power of the Purse fundraiser would bring in \$10,000 for teen pregnancy prevention programs in local schools. "I'm hoping for more than \$10,000, but we usually raise that with this event," said Jamie Nimmo, vice president of community impact programs for the United Way of Anderson County.

National News:

Wall Street Journal: Deadline Looms for 'High Risk' Enrollees

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303546204579437553924149652>

Louis Radnofsky

Thousands of "high risk" people with existing medical conditions remain enrolled in a federal health-insurance program slated to close March 31, making it likely the Obama administration again will have to extend the program or risk seeing sick people lose coverage.

Brian Symmes

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