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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, March 26, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley files for re-election

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/25/3348404/gov-nikki-haley-files-for-re-election.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/1084/>

Andrew Shain

After filing for re-election Tuesday, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley hopes lower unemployment and a record of bringing jobs wins her another four years in the Governor's mansion.

Note: "This administration has worked hard as we possibly can to improve the lives of all people," she said before meeting with volunteers at the S.C. GOP headquarters. "I represent all people. I fight for all people. And we have done that by putting all these jobs in rural counties."

Greenville News: Roads bill outlines funding choices for lawmakers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140326/NEWS03/303260016/Roads-bill-outlines-funding-choices-lawmakers>

Tim Smith

Sen. Larry Grooms, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the transportation committee, said he believes if and when the Senate takes up a bill with a bevy of funding options in proposed amendments, many of them may be struck as not germane to the main bill, meaning it will take some other means to get much funding passed.

Note: Haley, who is running for re-election this year, has threatened to veto any bill that includes a gas tax increase. She has suggested that lawmakers use the difference between initial and final state revenue estimates, typically more than \$100 million a year, to fund road and bridge needs.

Charleston Business Journal: Ice storm impacts S.C. timber industry

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/50908-ice-storm-impacts-s-c-timber-industry?rss=0>

Chuck Crumbo

February's ice storm, which damaged 1.5 million acres of South Carolina forestland, promises to disrupt the supply chain of the state's \$17.4 billion forestry industry.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley's signing of a temporary order allowing larger loads to be carried by logging trucks — up to 90,000 pounds gross per vehicle versus the usual 80,000-pound limit — should "ease a bottleneck of trucking capacity to get salvaged material to the mills (pulp mills, saw or stud mills, biomass plants)," Gammell said.

WMBF: Gov. Haley set to visit Pawleys Island school

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/25073176/gov-haley-set-to-visit-pawleys-island>

Brooke Holden

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to be in Pawleys Island this week. According to Gov. Haley's weekly schedule, she will visit Coastal Montessori Charter School (CMCS) Thursday, March 27. In a release issued by the school, Gov. Haley is scheduled to speak to students before attending an assembly in the school's auditorium.

Associated Press: Senators hold another meeting on DSS director

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4XMGuB0Z

Meg Kinnard

A Senate panel is continuing its hearings on South Carolina's Department of Social Services. A special Senate committee is holding another hearing on the agency Wednesday. The panel began meeting in January.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has said she stands behind Koller's leadership.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: Sheheen, Haley filing to be on ballot for governor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zY5ijjR

Seanna Adcox

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen has filed for his spot on the ballot to challenge South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Sheheen, D-Camden, filed his paperwork Tuesday morning with the state Election Commission. Haley followed several hours later.

Note: "He's going to say what he needs to say. All I have to do is show my record," Haley told a small crowd at the state Republican Party headquarters.

The State: It's a race: Nikki Haley, Vincent Sheheen sign up for SC rematch

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/25/3348708/its-a-race-nikki-haley-vincent.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen signed up Tuesday for another fight to see who will run South Carolina. Haley hopes lower joblessness and a record of bringing jobs to the state win her another four years in the Governor's Mansion. Sheheen hopes the Haley administration's first-term mishaps translate into the victory that eluded him in 2010.

Rock Hill Herald: Fort Mill Democrat runs for seat held by Mulvaney

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/25/3348843/fort-mill-democrat-runs-for-seat.html#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

A Fort Mill Democrat is banking on moderate voters tired of what he calls dysfunction in Congress to win over a Republican stronghold in this year's Fifth Congressional District election. Mulvaney, who defeated longtime Democrat John Spratt in 2010, said he plans to seek a third term.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Right decision made on nuclear material

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140326/AIK0201/140329594/1018/AIK02/editorial-right-decision-made-on-nuclear-material>

Editorial

Our community should be looking for ways to have nuclear material exit the Savannah River Site, not a path to stockpile more. That's why the SRS Citizens Advisory Board made the right call by telling the U.S. Department of Energy that a new shipment of more than 700 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium should not be stored in our backyard.

Post and Courier: South Carolina ethics laws are so lax it ought to be a crime

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140326/PC16/140329567/1177/south-carolina-ethics-laws-are-so-lax-it-ought-to-be-a-crime>

Brian Hicks

Former Sen. Robert Ford might have used the wrong strategy last year when he tried to defend himself against those pesky ethics complaints. Instead of claiming horrendous bookkeeping skills, he should have just asked for the charges to be dropped. After all, it worked for Richard Eckstrom.

Greenville News: Windows XP change exposes flaws

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140326/OPINION01/303260015/Editorial-Windows-XP-change-exposes-flaws>

Editorial

It is difficult to believe the state seems to have been caught flat-footed in its handling a potential cyber-security problem just two years after the state Department of Revenue allowed a breach that compromised millions of state residents' Social Security numbers.

Post and Courier: Make job creation Job One

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140325/PC1002/140329557/1021/make-job-creation-job-one>

Editorial

Partisan bickering in Washington isn't just bad for national harmony. It's bad for business. And though a survey released last week reflected some rising hopes of major-corporation CEOs for a strengthening

economic recovery, it also showed their continuing concerns about the roadblocks presented by political gridlock.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC senator: Update social gaming law or I'll sue

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

Seanna Adcox

Sen. Tom Davis warned Tuesday that if legislators block his bill aimed at allowing retirees to legally play bridge, he'll sue to get South Carolina's centuries-old antigambling law thrown out altogether. Davis, an attorney, said he developed the bill after state police warned a manager at Sun City Hilton Head last May that the bridge and canasta social clubs advertised for residents violated state law.

The State: Senators want SC schools to have option of sales tax for construction costs

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/25/3348960/senators-want-sc-schools-to-have.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Some S.C. senators want more school districts to have the option of pursuing a sales tax to pay for school construction projects. The Senate Finance Committee advanced a bill Tuesday, sponsored by state Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, that would allow school districts in all of the state's 46 counties to ask voters to approve a 1-cent sales tax for building projects.

Greenville News: Outcry from cyclists puts brakes on bike bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140326/NEWS/303260018/Outcry-from-cyclists-puts-brakes-bike-bill>

Nathaniel Cary

A bill filed by state Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville two weeks ago that riled up the bicycle advocacy community in South Carolina has been dropped. Nanney introduced a bill on March 12 that would have banned youths from riding bikes on many public roads and would have required all cyclists to obtain a \$5 permit from the Department of Transportation in order to ride on many public roads.

Post and Courier: Panel advances bill that orders study at deadly Charleston intersection

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140325/PC1603/140329562/1031/panel-advances-bill-that-orders-study-at-deadly-charleston-intersection>

Cynthia Roldan

An impassioned speech by a Charleston representative and a tearful plea by a mother Tuesday helped advance a bill that would order a study into building an overpass at Coming Street and the Crosstown.

Associated Press: Charter school supporters rally at SC Statehouse

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ooLYfL1K

People who support charter schools are gathering for a rally in Columbia. On Wednesday, students, parents and teachers are scheduled to meet at the South Carolina Statehouse. Organizers say state Education Superintendent Mick Zais and legislators are expected to speak.

Anderson Independent: Biblical verses derail S.C. fossil bill

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/25/biblical-verses-derail-sc-fossil-bill/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

A bill naming the Columbian mammoth as South Carolina's official state fossil was stopped in its tracks Tuesday after a legislator from Anderson unsuccessfully tried adding biblical verses to the measure. Republican state Sen. Kevin Bryant offered an amendment to the fossil bill that would have designated two verses from the book of Genesis as the official state passage from an ancient historical text.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Greenville County School Board asks Gowdy to help restore Title 1 funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140326/NEWS04/303260022/Greenville-County-School-Board-asks-Gowdy-help-restore-Title-1-funding>

Ron Barnett

The Greenville County School Board wants Congress to restore funding for Title 1, the federal program that aims to help kids from low-income families rise out of poverty through education. The board also wants

Washington to live up to its promise in funding programs for students with special needs.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Health department: Waste, tank treatment a priority at SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140326/AIK0101/140329561/1004/health-department-waste-tank-treatment-a-priority-at-srs>

Derrek Asberry

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control reports it still intends to hold the Department of Energy accountable for requesting adequate funding for waste clean up and tank closures at the Savannah River Site.

Aiken Standard: SRS Reuse Organization questions MOX life-cycle cost

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140326/AIK0101/140329565/1004/srs-reuse-organization-questions-mox-life-cycle-cost>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization recently questioned the \$30 billion life-cycle cost the Department of Energy attached to the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site. In a letter dated March 21, the group's chair, Susan Winsor, addressed the issue with DOE Secretary Ernest Moniz.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston students have "no confidence" in Board of Trustees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140325/PC16/140329548/1177/college-of-charleston-students-have-no-confidence-in-board-of-trustees>

Diane Knich

The College of Charleston's Student Government Association voted Tuesday that it has no confidence in the school's Board of Trustees. The vote was prompted largely by the board's handling of the presidential search process and some members' comments on a freshman reading selection.

Times and Democrat: S.C. State trustees discuss Elzey progress

http://thetandd.com/news/s-c-state-trustees-discuss-elzey-progress/article_bd2d0326-b47f-11e3-b3e7-0019bb2963f4.html

South Carolina State University's trustees met behind closed doors for about an hour Tuesday to discuss President Thomas Elzey's interim progress report. Earlier this month, trustees met in executive session to clarify the process for the president's "mid-year evaluation," although there were questions about whether the process was an executive session matter.

Anderson Independent: Panelists say failure to expand Medicaid causing hardship

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/25/panelists-say-failure-to-expand-medicaid-causing/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

South Carolina's refusal to expand its Medicaid program is causing hardship for low-income workers and hospitals like Oconee Medical Center, officials said Tuesday night. The decision by state officials to reject up to \$11 billion in federal money to pay for expanding Medicaid also has caused Clemson Free Clinic board Chairman Peter Sparks' blood pressure to rise.

Anderson Independent: Watchdog hopes Duke will clean up Saluda dump

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/25/watchdog-hopes-duke-will-clean-up-saluda-dump/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

An environmental watchdog group hopes Duke Energy will clean up its coal ash ponds along the Saluda River — if not, the \$50 billion utility could face more legal trouble over its Carolina operations.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: New Rock Hill business to create 140 jobs

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/25/5805890/unnamed-distribution-company-coming.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

A \$27.5 million distribution center expected to employ up to 140 people is coming to Rock Hill's Riverwalk

Business Park. The identity of the company has not been released, but Rock Hill economic development officials expect an official announcement as soon as next week.

Aiken Standard: If approved, penny tax hike could help rebuild area schools

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140326/AIK0101/140329545/1007/AIK0101/if-approved-penny-tax-hike-could-help-rebuild-area-schools>

Rob Novit

If Aiken County voters were to approve a penny sales tax referendum during the general election in November, the School Board has targeted the full replacement of two schools over the next decade – Aiken High, North Augusta High, as well as three years for Ridge Spring-Monetta High.

Anderson Independent: Federal payments move Oconee Medical Center out of red

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/25/federal-payments-move-oconee-medical-center-out/?partner=RSS>

Ray Chandler

A one-time payment of federal money has moved Oconee Medical Center finances back into the black. Kevin Herbert, the hospital's finance director, said Monday that it earned \$2.5 million through a program reimbursing hospitals for the costs of implementing electronic medical records in the hospital and physician practices.

National News:

Politico: FEC probes Harry Reid gifts to granddaughter

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/harry-reid-gifts-fec-105017.html>

Byron Tau

The Federal Election Commission is probing two payments that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid made to his granddaughter's jewelry company. In a letter sent Friday to Reid's campaign treasurer, the election law enforcement agency said that "holiday gifts" was not an acceptable description of two payments totaling \$16,786.93 to "Ryan Elisabeth" on Reid's 2013 year-end campaign finance report.

New York Times: U.S. to Extend Sign-Up Period For Insurance

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/us/politics/obama-administration-extends-health-enrollment-for-some.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Robert Pear

With less than a week left for people to sign up for health insurance, the Obama administration said Tuesday that it would allow more time for those who had tried to apply but were blocked by technical problems with the federal exchange.

Brian Symmes

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