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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Thursday, April 24, 2014

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## Morning Clips – Thursday, April 24, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Anderson Independent:** Deal signs Ga. part of boating compact with SC

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/23/deal-signs-ga-part-boating-compact-sc/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

Georgia has done its part to line up its boating rules with South Carolina, now it's the Palmetto State's turn to reciprocate. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed the Interstate Boating Violator Compact into law Wednesday during a ceremony at the Corps of Engineers Big Oaks Recreation Area just west of the Hartwell Dam.

**Note:** Another ceremony at Big Oak is likely when Gov. Nikki Haley signs off on it, according to Bowen.

**Sumter Item:** Educator at CCTC is Professor of the Year

[http://www.theitem.com/news/local\\_news/educator-at-cctc-is-professor-of-the-year/article\\_be4b40da-56f3-5181-ad0c-0d21bc0043e4.html](http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/educator-at-cctc-is-professor-of-the-year/article_be4b40da-56f3-5181-ad0c-0d21bc0043e4.html)

Raytevia Evans

When one of his students was in need of a multiple-organ transplant, Christopher Hall, academic program manager and instructor for the criminal justice technology program at Central Carolina Technical College, organized a fundraiser with his students.

**Note:** "When we all go back and think about our college careers, you always think of that professor where you just got it. You understood, not just that they want to teach you, but to try to help you see what the real world is going to be like," Haley said. "And that's what this is about. We have so many great schools across the state, but our professors are stellar because they get the fact that South Carolina is changing by the day. It is not the South Carolina that was a little archaic. It is the new South Carolina. These professors are changing with the times."

**WIS:** Special education teacher named SC Teacher of the Year

<http://www.wistv.com/story/25325876/special-education-teacher-named-sc-teacher-of-the-year>

Jennifer Ainsworth, Horry County Schools' Teacher of the Year, was named the South Carolina Teacher of the Year at a ceremony Wednesday night. Ainsworth, a special education teacher at Socastee High School, was selected from thousands of teachers throughout the state.

**Colleton Today:** Governor Nikki Haley to visit Colleton County Monday

[http://www.colletontoday.com/news/governor-nikki-haley-to-visit-colleton-county-monday/article\\_06b31d38-cb18-11e3-b1d9-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.colletontoday.com/news/governor-nikki-haley-to-visit-colleton-county-monday/article_06b31d38-cb18-11e3-b1d9-001a4bcf887a.html)

George Salsberry

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will travel to Colleton County Monday morning for a celebration. Haley, joined by R. Michael Johnson, chairman of the South Carolina Workforce Investment Board, and Cheryl M. Stanton, executive director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, will arrive at the Dayco Products plant at 938 Thunderbolt Drive Monday at 10:30 a.m.

**The State:** GOP senator joins calls for Haley to fire SC Social Services chief

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/23/3405295/gop-senator-joins-calls-for-haley.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

State Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, called on Republican Gov. Nikki Haley to fire the chief of South Carolina's child-welfare agency Wednesday. Shealy is the third senator – but the first Republican – to call for director Lillian Koller's removal from the state Department of Social Services. A state Senate panel that includes Shealy is investigating claims of mismanagement at that agency, which reports to Haley.

### 2014 Campaign Cycle News:

**WSPA:** Fact Check: Haley Ads on Jobs and Economic Development

<http://www.wsav.com/story/25326759/fact-check-haley-ads-on-jobs-and-economic-development>

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley just started airing two new television ads in her reelection campaign for governor, both focused on jobs and economic development. One ad is called "On the Move," and features the governor saying, "When I came into office, our state was hurting. Fixing our economy was my number one job."

**Associated Press:** South Carolina Bar fights back against Republican Governors Association ad attacking Vincent Sheheen

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140423/PC1603/140429704/1177/south-carolina-bar-fights-back-against-republican-governors-association-ad-attacking-vincent-sheheen>

Seanna Adcox

An ad attacking Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen's work as a defense attorney has prompted the South Carolina Bar Association to fight back against what it calls an unfair smear of the legal profession that should have no place in the governor's race.

**Note:** Haley's campaign spokesman, Rob Godfrey, said Sheheen has every right to choose how he makes his living, "just like South Carolinians have the right to know exactly who Vince is and who he chose to represent when they vote for governor."

**Aiken Standard:** In second gubernatorial try, Sheheen cites Haley's poor record

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140424/AIK0101/140429682/1004/in-second-gubernatorial-try-sheheen-cites-haley-s-poor-record>

Rob Novit

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley takes credit for newly-created jobs every week, said S.C. Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, who is running against her for the second time.

## Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**Island Packet:** High school exit exam doesn't prep students

*South Carolina is right to replace the old test with ones that prepare students for life after high school.*

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/23/3075044/high-school-exit-exam-doesnt-prep.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Thirty years ago, it made sense to require S.C. teens to pass the high school exit exam, a bare-bones test that ensured mastery of basic English and math skills. It had to be passed before students could receive high school diplomas. Back then, "kids were leaving high schools in our state who couldn't read or write," said Melanie Barton, director of the Education Oversight Committee, to The State newspaper. "It (the exit exam) set a minimum level of competency."

**Aiken Standard:** Don't get too gung-ho about offshore drilling

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140424/AIK0201/140429703/1018/AIK02/editorial-don-t-get-too-gung-ho-about-offshore-drilling>

Editorial

A recent federal government decision to endorse testing for oil and natural gas along the Atlantic Ocean means the door could once again be opening for drilling off South Carolina's coast. Earlier this year, the U. S. Department of the Interior recommended seismic testing along the Carolinas, as well as Virginia and potentially down to Florida.

**Post and Courier:** Political pipeline obstruction

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140424/PC1002/140429687/1021/a-political-clog-in-the-pipeline>

Editorial

The long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline has many supporters in the United States. But in the latest delay and ensuing debate, a spokesman for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper put the project in broader perspective:

**Rock Hill Herald:** Still waiting for state texting ban

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/04/23/5895991/still-waiting-for-state-texting.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

When it comes to sensible measures to prevent texting while driving, the pressure in South Carolina is coming from the grass roots up. We hope state lawmakers finally get the message. A number of South Carolina cities and counties have grown tired of waiting for a statewide ban on texting while behind the wheel and have acted on their own.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Post and Courier:** Watchdog group: Allegations against House Speaker Bobby Harrell should not be heard by House Ethics Committee

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140423/PC1603/140429699/1031/watchdog-group-allegations-against-house-speaker-bobby-harrell-should-not-be-heard-by-house-ethics-committee>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. House panel charged with overseeing ethics violations in the state Legislature was never the appropriate body to investigate allegations against House Speaker Bobby Harrell, according to the watchdog group that is pursuing a complaint against the Charleston Republican.

**The State:** Activist: Harrell allegations were criminal from the start

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/23/3405403/activist-harrell-allegations-were.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Allegations about S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell's alleged illegal use of campaign funds were criminal in nature from the beginning and an ongoing investigation into his affairs should stay in the State Grand Jury, according to the people who sparked the Harrell investigation in the first place.

**Aiken Standard:** MOX dodges more than 1,000 layoffs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140424/AIK0101/140429695/1004/mox-dodges-more-than-1000-layoffs>

Derrek Asberry

Congressional advocates of the Savannah River Site's MOX facility said they prevented more than 1,000 MOX layoffs two weeks ago; however, there is still no news on when potential layoffs will be implemented. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., all attended the Savannah River National Laboratory's 10th anniversary of becoming a national lab on Wednesday.

**Aiken Standard:** SRNL celebrates 10 years as a national lab

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140424/AIK0101/140429697/srnl-celebrates-10-years-as-a-national-lab>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said it was a fight to get the federal government to give the Savannah River Site's lab its title as a national lab. Among those speakers was Site Manager David Moody, who said SRNL is forward thinking in generating new missions to add to its legacy.

**Associated Press:** SC unemployed can seek benefits via smartphones

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0Fy7DaQG](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0Fy7DaQG)

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's unemployment agency launched a free app Wednesday that allows jobless residents to seek weekly benefits through their iPhones. The Department of Employment and Workforce calls it the nation's first such app for smartphones. The U.S. Department of Labor did not immediately respond to voice and email messages.

**The State:** SC's critical workers get a boost toward buying a home

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/23/3405086/scs-critical-workers-get-a-boost.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

Buying a home got easier for some of the state's critical workers Wednesday when the South Carolina Housing Authority announced a revamp of its 2014 Palmetto Heroes program. The restructured program offers below market mortgage interest rates, greater down payment assistance and a state-backed mortgage credit return.

**The State:** SC Supreme Court rules man can get off 'lifelong' sex offender registry

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/23/3404073/can-man-be-kept-on-sex-offender.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The S.C. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a man who was on the state's lifelong sex offender registry can be taken off of it. In its two-page opinion, the high court reversed a decision by the S.C. Court of Appeals that in effect kept John Christopher Johnson on the sex offender registry for life.

**Greenville News:** Ex-executives sue CertusBank, investor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/04/23/ex-executives-sue-certusbank-investor/8081715/>

David Dykes

Three former CertusBank executives have sued the bank, an investor and a firm managed or controlled by the investor, alleging the executives were unjustly fired and defamed as part of a conspiracy to spread false information amid allegations of financial mismanagement.

#### **Local News:**

**Greenville News:** Greer OKs texting ban

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/04/23/greer-oks-texting-ban/8049797/>

Cheryl P. Allen

Greer City Council passed an ordinance that makes texting and emailing while driving illegal within the city limits. Violations occur when a vehicle is in motion, said Steve Owens, spokesman for the city. The ordinance passed on a 5-2 vote and is set to take effect July 1.

**Post and Courier:** Mount Pleasant's proposed budget raises taxes, fees for infrastructure repairs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140423/PC16/140429706/1177/mount-pleasants-proposed-budget-raises-taxes-fees-for-infrastructure-repairs>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Town Council members got their first look Wednesday at the booming community's proposed \$87.9 million budget for next year, which includes already approved property tax and fee increases to pay for a host of infrastructure projects.

**Associated Press:** Charleston wins \$20,000 urban forestry grant

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AruDI4Tv](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=AruDI4Tv)

Things will seem a bit greener in Charleston now that the city has won a \$20,000 urban forestry grant. Charleston is one of ten winners of this year's TD Green Streets Grants which are awarded by TD Bank and the Arbor Day Foundation.

**Florence Morning News:** Penny tax bond money set to go in Florence County's bank

[http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article\\_56033c36-cb4c-11e3-b213-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_56033c36-cb4c-11e3-b213-0017a43b2370.html)

Gavin Jackson

The largest offering of general obligation bonds by the county took place last week to fund nearly 100 infrastructure projects throughout the county over the next three years. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC won the bid for the \$125 million offering with the lowest true interest cost (TIC) of 1.37 percent. The seven bonds were offered on April 15.

#### **National News:**

**Politico:** The left's secret club

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/democrats-democracy-alliance-liberal-donors-105972.html>

Kenneth P. Vogel

Some of the country's biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors next week in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left.

Brian Symmes

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