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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, March 31, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: BMW's success in US translates to success for Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140331/BUSINESS/303310012/BMW-s-success-US-translates-success-Upstate>

David Dykes

Ron Anderson knows manufacturing, having worked at BMW's only U.S. plant for 20 years. He also knows how important the jobs are since he found work with BMW after losing a previous manufacturing position. At the local plant to announce the expansion, Reithofer was joined by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Gov. Nikki Haley, Harald Krüger, BMW production head, and Manfred Erlacher, president of BMW Manufacturing Co.

Times and Democrat: AT&T investment in S.C. includes 4G in Orangeburg

http://thetandd.com/business/at-t-investment-in-s-c-includes-g-in-orangeburg/article_6f43709e-b6de-11e3-b6af-001a4bcf887a.html

AT&T has invested more than \$825 million in its wireless and wired networks in South Carolina between 2011 through 2013, driving a wide range of upgrades to enhance speed, reliability, coverage and performance for residents and business customers.

Note: "Strong private investment in advanced communications technology sends a clear signal that South Carolina is not only a great place to live but also an excellent place for business in a global economy," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "AT&T is clearly committed to providing South Carolina with the state-of-the-art services and features that drive economic activity and create jobs, and we are lucky to have them as part of our diverse and growing business community."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: S.C. election ballot set as filing deadline passes

http://thetandd.com/news/local/s-c-election-ballot-set-as-filing-deadline-passes/article_d41aeae2-b887-11e3-9e34-001a4bcf887a.html

Bruce Smith

South Carolina's 2014 election ballot was finalized Sunday with Gov. Nikki Haley and the state's two incumbent U.S. senators facing June primary opposition, a big-name race for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor and a lengthy list of candidates vying to head the state Education Department.

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley among SC candidates facing election primaries + complete filings list

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/30/3357770/gov-nikki-haley-among-sc-candidates.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley along with U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott and U.S. Reps. Joe Wilson and Jim Clyburn will have to get through primary election challengers to win a chance at re-election after filing ended Sunday. Haley, a first-term Republican, will face former state Rep. and judge Tom Ervin in the June 10 primary to face Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, Libertarian candidate Steve French and United Citizens candidate Morgan Bruce Reeves in the fall.

Post and Courier: Five things we learned about the 2014 election year ballot

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC1610/140339905/1031/five-things-we-learned-about-the-2014-election-year-ballot>

Schuyler Kropf

Filing ended at noon Sunday, setting the Republican, Democratic and third party fields for this year's state and local elections. Reporters Schuyler Kropf, Robert Behre and Cynthia Roldan point out five things we

know now that it's done: Former state representative Tom Ervin, 62, a Greenville lawyer and radio station owner, suddenly got in the race Saturday morning without much advance warning to the GOP establishment.

Times and Democrat: Rep. Govan running for House, Supt. of Ed.

http://thetandd.com/news/local/rep-govan-running-for-house-supt-of-ed/article_99076122-b889-11e3-86ce-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

Rep. Jerry Govan Jr., D-Orangeburg, has joined the race for state Superintendent of Education. Govan said his entry into the race is “not a knee-jerk decision or reaction.” Rather he sees this is a “unique opportunity to really talk about ideas about what the future of education should look like in South Carolina.”

Aiken Standard: Clearwater man to run for Smith's State House seat

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140330/AIK0101/140339952/1007/AIK0101/clearwater-man-to-run-for-smith-8217-s-state-house-seat>

Derrek Asberry

Clearwater resident Rick Turnbull has recently announced his candidacy to run for the House District 84 seat – a seat that will be vacant after S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Aiken, retires later this year. Turnbull said Smith has done a great job for the state and local area, and that he will do the seat justice if elected.

Aiken Standard: North Augusta resident runs for District 84 seat

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140330/AIK0101/140339951/1007/AIK0101/north-augusta-resident-runs-for-district-84-seat>

Derrek Asberry

North Augusta resident Adam Mestres is the latest individual to declare his candidacy for the District 84 Representative seat – a seat that will be vacant after S.C. Rep. Roland Smith, R-Aiken, retires at the end of this term. If elected, Mestres said he plans to tackle various issues, including state infrastructure.

Associated Press: SC districts about party, in this case the GOP

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6PjlrE7P

Bruce Smith

The decade-long Republican control of South Carolina government has resulted in congressional districts increasingly safe for the GOP and has marginalized conservative white Democrats who for decades ran the state where the Civil War began.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Oversight can safeguard votes in all counties

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/oversight-can-safeguard-votes-in-all-counties/article_bb057780-b791-11e3-a66f-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Voting problems; OUR OPINION: Legislation is move toward ensuring elections are run according to state law. The main reason the state Legislature has spent more than a year not fixing the election system that brought us Lillian McBride and Howard Jackson and now Sam Selph — and eight-hour waits to vote and uncounted ballots — is that legislators in the rest of the state don't understand that Richland County is the canary in the coal mine.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: State House delays bill needed to reduce domestic violence

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140330/OPINION/403301016/1128?Title=State-House-delays-bill-needed-to-reduce-domestic-violence>

Editorial

When the Violence Policy Center issued its annual report last fall, many South Carolinians were horrified to find the Palmetto State was No. 1 in the rate of women killed by men, up from No. 2 the previous year. South Carolina's rate of 2.54 women killed per 100,000 people in 2011 was more than twice the national average.

Post and Courier: A high-flying attorney general

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140331/PC1002/140339938/1021/>

Editorial

If any agency of the federal government should be fully transparent about its activities and their costs, it's the Justice Department. And scant weeks after taking office in 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder underlined this point in a memorandum on how "a presumption of openness" should guide the nation's "fundamental commitment to open government," ...

South Carolina News:

Times and Democrat: Locals try getting insurance but many rely on programs – or emergency room
http://thetandd.com/news/local/locals-try-getting-insurance-but-many-rely-on-programs-or/article_2af0ddf4-b88d-11e3-b1a6-001a4bcf887a.html

Gloria Glover is excited that she has found a more affordable insurance plan under the federal Affordable Care Act, but the process was not without pain. The 32-year-old Orangeburg resident has been among the millions trolling through the government's health insurance marketplace that opened on Oct. 1 under the ACA.

Island Packet: Number of standardized tests public-school students take exploded in past decade

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/30/3026373/education-testing-day-2.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

And that number does not include optional assessments for students, like Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests, or college boards such as the ACT and SAT. Factor in those, and the number could jump to nearly 100 tests -- or more than 240 hours -- in a student's pre-college academic career.

Post and Courier: Freddie Mac helps gauge state housing market health

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140331/PC05/140339904/1177/freddie-mac-helps-gauge-state-housing-market-health>

Tyrone Richardson

Spring means the real estate industry is heading into the busy season for the home sales market. Just in time, Freddie Mac has just launched a program to lessen the guessing game when looking at the health of housing markets. The federal home mortgage company is offering a tool named Freddie Mac Multi-Indicator Market Index, or MiMi.

Post and Courier: In recovering S.C. towns and cities, raises are returning for municipal employees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC16/140339958/1177/in-recovering-sc-towns-and-cities-raises-are-returning-for-municipal-employees>

David Slade

Employees of South Carolina's towns and cities saw pay freezes and cutbacks during the Great Recession, like their private-sector counterparts, but municipal budgets have been rebounding and raises have returned. In North Charleston, the city's higher-paid employees are taking home an average of 9 percent more pay than they were two years ago.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Pee Dee awaits impact of the Affordable Care Act

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_54d26766-b854-11e3-a0da-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The impact of today's deadline for the Affordable Care Act's requirement for uninsured Americans to get health care or pay a penalty will soon be seen as will the impact of that insurance's cost and the state's choice not to expand Medicaid.

Sun News: City Council approves \$800,000 in grants for tourism-related organizations, events

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/31/4133094/city-council-approves-800000-in.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

The Oceanfront Merchants Association will again receive \$130,000 in tourism-related grants from the city of Myrtle Beach, the most of the applicants that applied for the money. Myrtle Beach City Council appropriated \$800,000 March 25 to outside agencies seeking grants from the city.

National News:

Associated Press: Rural Residents Confront Higher Health Care Costs

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/rural-residents-confront-higher-health-care-costs>

Kristen Wyatt

Bill Fales wanted a new baler and a better irrigation system for the 700-acre ranch where he raises grass-fed beef cattle, but he scrapped those plans when he saw his new health insurance premiums. His Cold Mountain Ranch is in western Colorado's Rocky Mountains, a rural area where outpatient services are twice as expensive as the state average.

Politico: HealthCare.gov down for maintenance on deadline morning

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/healthcaregov-website-down-obamacare-deadline-105197.html>

Joanne Kenen

The HealthCare.gov website is down for maintenance Monday, the final day of Affordable Care Act enrollment. The site, which had been performing well under large volume as the signup deadline approached, has been unavailable since shortly after 3 am eastern time.

Wall Street Journal: The Demographics Behind the Democrats' 2014 Troubles

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303779504579467401487094782#>

Andrew Kohut

Early national polling is supporting the prevailing view in Washington that Democrats are in trouble in the 2014 midterm elections. While Democrats are more popular than the GOP among the general public, the party faces a number of challenges in November.

Brian Symmes

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