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To:
Date: 5/27/2014 5:56:57 PM
Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, May 27, 2014

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State Fossil Bill Signing:

The Item: 8-year-old's contentious state fossil bill signed into law

http://www.theitem.com/news/year-old-s-contentious-state-fossil-bill-signed-into-law/article_60c640d8-e5e0-11e3-90a1-0019bb2963f4.html

Braden Bunch

Standing beside Gov. Nikki Haley, along with a large entourage including her mother, teacher, school classmates, local legislators and her little brother — who inserted himself into several photo opportunities as only little brothers can — the 8-year-old third-grader watched Tuesday as the legislation she proposed making the Columbian Mammoth the official state fossil was ceremoniously signed into law.

Note: "You want to improve your state, you want to make a difference, and Olivia is a great 8-year-old example of how to make life better in the state of South Carolina," Haley said of the New Zion girl who pushed for her bill, despite the proposal running into substantial roadblocks.

WACH: 8 year old inspires bill at State House

<http://www.wach.com/news/story.aspx?id=1049732#.U4T54PIdV8E>

Stephanie Helling

Today showed that even little children can make big changes over at the State House. Governor Nikki Haley signing a bill officially declaring the Woolly Mammoth as the South Carolina state fossil. The bill started when 8 year old Olivia McConnell wrote Governor Haley a letter back in October.

WBTW: SC Governor signs fossil bill

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25621162/sc-governor-signs-fossil-bill>

Julie Roy

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley held a ceremonial bill signing Tuesday, naming the Columbian Mammoth the official state fossil. The idea behind the bill came from 8-year-old Olivia McConnell of Lake City who has been fighting the Mammoth to represent the Palmetto state as the state fossil.

WPDE: Lake City girl sees bill she proposed on Mammoths signed into law

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1049881#.U4T53PIdV8F>

Allyson Floyd

Olivia McConnell, a third grade student from Carolina Academy in Lake City, joined Governor Nikki Haley Tuesday for the ceremonial signing of a bill to name the Columbian Mammoth as the official state fossil of South Carolina.

Note: "This is a great reminder that young people in South Carolina really can make a difference.

Regardless of your age, if you have the confidence to use the power of your voice to pursue something that you're passionate about, then you can find a way to be successful," said Gov. Haley. "Children like Olivia are the future leaders of our state and she has set a great example for all of us to follow."

Gov. Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Audit: Lack of cost control at SC nuke fuel plant

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

Meg Kinnard

Officials have been unable to control costs at a multibillion-dollar nuclear reactor fuel project at the Savannah River Site near Aiken, according to a new audit released this month. The inspector general of the U.S. Energy Department says in the report that the National Nuclear Security Administration and a private contractor have been "largely unsuccessful" in keeping tabs on the facility that would turn weapons-grade plutonium into commercial reactor fuel.

Horry News: Myrtle Beach leaders to consult with Governor Nikki Haley about Bikefest violence
http://www.myhorrynews.com/news/crime/article_b14190f8-e5d1-11e3-821d-001a4bcf6878.html

Charles Perry

Local leaders will meet with Gov. Nikki Haley soon to devise a plan to combat the problems associated with the Atlantic Beach Bikefest. "We must end this madness," said Horry County Councilman Mark Lazarus. "Whatever it takes."

WYFF: Grand jury indicts mayor

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/grand-jury-indicts-mayor/26193440>

Carla Field

A grand jury has indicted Simpsonville Mayor Perry Eichor, the Greenville County Clerk of Courts office confirmed Tuesday. WYFF News 4 has been told that indictment will be made public Wednesday.

Note: The governor's office has said that it would suspend Eichor if he was indicted, but as of late Tuesday afternoon, there was no comment on the indictment or suspension.

Greenwood Today: Two named to John de la Howe School Board

<http://gwdtoday.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=30171>

Gov. Nikki Haley has appointed two new trustees to John de la Howe School in McCormick. Tom Love of McCormick and Dan Shonka of Central have been confirmed by the South Carolina Senate to begin five-year terms on the governing board of the 217-year-old institution.

Aiken Standard: Elisabeth Harkins earns Silver Award

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140526/AIK0407/140529513/1113/RSSGoogleelisabeth-harkins-earns-silver-award&source=RSS>

She started a support group for girls with scoliosis, did media interviews, collected items to be donated to impoverished children in need of scoliosis surgery in Ghana, West Africa, and had Gov. Nikki Haley issue a proclamation designating June as Scoliosis Awareness Month in the South Carolina.

Associated Press: 3 Democrats call for House vote on SC DSS director

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1610/140529376/1177/3-democrats-call-for-house-vote-on-sc-dss-director>

Three Democrats want the South Carolina House to take a no-confidence vote in the Department of Social Services' director. The three Democrats representing Richland County are introducing a resolution urging Gov. Nikki Haley to fire director Lillian Koller.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Graham could win nomination without runoff, new poll suggests

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1603/140529436/1031/graham-could-win-nomination-without-runoff-new-poll-suggests>

Schuyler Kropf

A poll by a conservative energy group suggests U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham could win the June 10 Republican primary without a runoff against any of his six challengers. The survey, conducted by TargetPoint for the right-leaning Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, gave Graham a 56 percent following.

The State: Poll shows Lindsey Graham avoiding runoff

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3469962/poll-graham-will-avoid-runoff.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/1084/>

Jamie Self

Politico says a new poll shows U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham avoiding a runoff in June 10's primary. The poll, conducted by TargetPoint for the right-leaning Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, shows Graham getting 56 percent of the vote. Graham faces six Republican challengers in his bid for a third term.

Post and Courier: New Lindsey Graham ad promotes mine resistant vehicles

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1603/140529412/1031/new-lindsey-graham-ad-promotes-mine-resistant-vehicles>

Schuyler Kropf

A new campaign ad by U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham on TV and radio highlights his efforts to provide Mine

Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for U.S. troops. The 60-second television and radio ads are part of another of Graham's six-figure statewide ad buys that have come weekly ahead of the GOP primary.

Associated Press: Atwater and Spearman lead in schools chief race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8sGhno6x

Andrew Coffman Smith

In the Republican race to be South Carolina's next superintendent of education, Sally Atwater has outspent and fundraised the seven other candidates. However in the last 15 days of the primary race Molly Spearman leads in individual contributions and cash on hand.

Associated Press: McKinney leads GOP lieutenant governor money race

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

Seanna Adcox

Retired Kiawah Island developer Pat McKinney appears to be leading the money race for the GOP's lieutenant governor nominee, just two weeks before primary voters go to the polls. McKinney's pre-election report, filed Monday, shows he has about \$202,000 available for the June 10 four-way Republican primary.

The State: Childs launches first TV ad supporting individualized education, school choice

[http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470075/childs-launches-first-add-supporting.html?](http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470075/childs-launches-first-add-supporting.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy)

[sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy](http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470075/childs-launches-first-add-supporting.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy)

Cassie Cope

Republican superintendent of education candidate Meka Childs launched her first TV ad today touting individualized education and supporting school choice for parents.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Anderson Independent: Graham, McCain react to Afghanistan troop withdrawal announcement

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/27/graham-mccain-react-afghanistan-troop-withdrawal-a/?partner=RSS>

U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), Kelly Ayotte (R-New Hampshire) and John McCain (R-Arizona) released the following statement on President Obama's announcement on Afghanistan today, which includes withdrawing all U.S. troops from the country by the end of 2016:

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Senate votes against House plan on ethics reform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/senate-votes-house-plan-ethics-reform/9629801/>

Tim Smith

The Senate today overwhelmingly voted against a House proposal to reform the state's ethics laws. The 39-2 vote not to agree with the House version of the bill came after Sen. Chip Campsen, a Charleston Republican, argued that the House version went too far by including judges among those that would be covered by a proposed new panel that would investigate ethics complaints.

Greenville News: Brewers, wholesalers reach beer law compromise

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/battle-brewing-today-craft-beer-bill/9623327/>

Eric Connor

Craft brewers and wholesalers have reached a compromise on the "Stone Bill" that will loosen South Carolina's beer restrictions, with a vote in the state Legislature that advocates say will pass smoothly.

Associated Press: Prosecutor wants some Harrell documents sealed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=RS6lynBX

Attorney General Alan Wilson wants the S.C. Supreme Court to keep sealed several matters involving the State Grand Jury now investigating House Speaker Bobby Harrell. Wilson made that request with the court Friday. No ruling has been made.

Greenville News: S.C. plan to ban powdered alcohol fails

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/sc-plan-ban-powdered-alcohol-fails/9630643/>

Tim Smith

A proposal to ban powdered alcohol in the state failed in the Senate today despite pleas from a senator that the substance could present a grave threat to children. Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he wants the ban until the state can prepare regulations about how powdered alcohol should be distributed.

South Carolina News:

The State: Gilbert Marine set to receive Medal of Honor to appear at luncheon
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3469936/gilbert-marine-set-to-receive.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

The Gilbert Marine who will be awarded the Medal of Honor next month for his heroic actions in Afghanistan, will attend a luncheon on Wednesday honoring South Carolina soldiers who died while serving their country. Lance Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, 24, was wounded when he threw himself on a grenade to save a friend and fellow Marine's life.

Local News:

Island Packet: County, state to split cost of Hunting Island lifeguards
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/27/3131928/county-state-to-split-cost-of.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Beaufort County will split the \$76,000 cost of hiring nine lifeguards to protect beachgoers at Hunting Island State Park this summer. State government will pay half, plus about \$26,000 in costs to equip the guards with safety and first-aid supplies, uniforms and lifeguard chairs, according to county officials.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP Pressing Obama to confront Russia over nukes
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_UNITED_STATES_RUSSIA_NUCLEAR_ARMS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-27-08-24-31

Deb Riechmann

Congress is stepping up pressure on the White House to confront Russia over allegations that it is cheating on a key nuclear arms treaty - a faceoff that could further strain U.S.-Moscow relations and dampen President Barack Obama's hopes to add deeper cuts in nuclear arsenals to his legacy.

Reuters: Obama to announce plans to leave 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/27/us-usa-afghanistan-obama-idUSKBN0E71WQ20140527>

Steve Holland

U.S. President Barack Obama will announce on Tuesday that he wants to leave 9,800 American troops in Afghanistan after this year and mostly end the U.S. presence by the end of 2016, senior administration officials said. The decision, to be announced by Obama in a White House Rose Garden event at 2:45 p.m. EDT, means that the president will leave office in early 2017 with no measurable troop strength in Afghanistan.

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