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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, April 14, 2016

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Sen. Lee Bright's 'Bathroom Bill':

Greenville News: Overflow crowd speaks out on transgender bill

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/13/overflow-crowd-speaks-out-transgender-bill/82972220/>

Tim Smith

Legislation addressing transgender use of public bathrooms drew dozens of speakers on both sides of the issue Wednesday, from those arguing the bill is needed to ensure privacy and safety, to warnings that the bill, if enacted, could cost the state billions in federal funding and spur harassment and violence. The divisive bill also triggered a warning during Wednesday's hearing by one of two senators on the panel hearing testimony that he would do everything in his power to block the bill from ever being heard on the Senate floor. Testimony is scheduled to continue Thursday afternoon, though the two-senator panel is not expected to vote on the bill, which already is on the agenda for the next meeting of the full Senate General Committee.

Greenville News: Chamber president, Bright trade barbs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/14/chamber-president-bright-trade-barbs-over-bathroom-bill/83004172/>

S.C. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ted Pitts doubled down on his pointed criticism of Sen. Lee Bright in a call with The Greenville News' editorial board Wednesday afternoon, calling the Upstate Republican a "do-nothing legislator" who wastes the senate's time and resources. The call was an update on the chamber's legislative agenda, which prioritizes a \$600 million infrastructure plan and workforce training. Pitts spoke at length in the call about Bright and his controversial bill that would restrict transgender access to restrooms and changing rooms. Senate bill 1203 would ban people from using restrooms or changing rooms that do not correspond with their biological sex and prohibit local governments from passing laws allowing them to do so. Pitts criticized the bill after Bright introduced it last week, and in his legislative agenda update, he said the legislation was an attempt to get attention that distracts from more pressing issues. "It's a ploy by some senators to distract from the fact that they haven't done anything," Pitts said. "They're trying to take a topic that they think the public is interested in, or at least they can get press with, to try and cover up the fact that certain senators haven't done anything."

Wilson-Pascoe Dispute:

Post and Courier: SLED report on corruption probe includes names of two close to attorney general

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160414/PC16/160419626>

Glenn Smith and Tony Bartelme

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson is trying to fire a special prosecutor handling a corruption probe that includes two of his close political associates named in a criminal investigative report, according to sources familiar with the document. State Rep. Rick Quinn, a Lexington

Republican, and his father, political consultant Richard Quinn, are named in a report State Law Enforcement Division agents prepared in connection with the on-going corruption probe. Wilson has been accused of trying to impede the investigation run by the special prosecutor he appointed to the case, 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe. The Supreme Court has been asked to decide whether Wilson has the authority to fire Pascoe and prevent him from using the state grand jury to investigate allegations of Statehouse corruption.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Official: FBI reviewing SC couple's cavity search case

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yGhfHUz2

Meg Kinnard

Federal authorities are reviewing the case of a black South Carolina couple who say they were subjected to an illegal cavity search at the hands of white officers. The FBI is among several agencies reviewing the case of Lakeya Hicks and Elijah Pontoon, a law enforcement official with knowledge of the inquiry said Thursday. The official spoke with The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the case. The official said that the FBI reviews all allegations concerning potential civil rights abuses and could ultimately launch an official investigation after consultation with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Post and Courier: State to investigate fires on Beaufort County school buses

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160414/PC1610/160419630>

The South Carolina Department of Education is assembling a team to investigate why Beaufort County has been the site of half of the state's school bus fires so far this school year. Agency spokesman Dino Teppara tells The Island Packet of Hilton Head that a group of Columbia transportation officials and state staff will conduct a thorough review of records from the four bus fires that have occurred in the county since Sept. 1. Teppara says the state hasn't determined the causes of the fires, two of which occurred last month. No injuries were reported in the incidents.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Policies, training examined as more videos show S.C. police shooting into cars

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160414/PC16/160419609>

Andrew Knapp and Tony Bartelme

Videos obtained by The Post and Courier during the past year show in grainy but dramatic fashion how some South Carolina law enforcement officers are too quick to fire at vehicles. The latest video was revealed this week in the 2014 case of Ernest Satterwhite, an elderly black man from Edgefield whose case was highlighted in last year's "Shot's Fired" investigative report. Dashboard camera video showed Justin Craven, a North Augusta officer, rush toward Satterwhite's car, struggle with the driver for a moment, then pull back and open fire. Craven pleaded guilty this week to a misdemeanor charge of misconduct in office and received a probationary sentence. But Satterwhite's death wasn't an isolated case.

The State: Florence native faces Bear Grylls for Syrian refugee children

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article71803012.html>

Tom Bryant, a Florence native living in London, UK, will compete in a Bear Grylls survival experience this month to aid Syrian refugee children. On April 16, as part of Bear's Survival Academy, Tom will be dropped in the middle of Dartmoor National Park with no food, water or shelter. "The landscape

can be harsh and unforgiving and has difficult terrain, which is why Britain's elite Royal Marine Commandos train there," Bryant said. "There will be no safety net for two days. I will have to learn knife survival skills, foraging for food, improvised first aid and I rather not think about what else. "There's no way I can truly imagine the misery, sadness and fear the Syrian refugee children are experiencing right now in camps all over Europe. The conditions of no running water, piles of rubbish, ankle-deep mud..." Bryant commented. "While it's nowhere remotely close to what these children live with on a daily basis, I'm facing one of Bear Grylls' survival experiences to raise donations.

Independent Mail: Clemson sit-in continues at Sikes Hall; administration expected to offer plan today
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/clemson-sit-in-continues-at-sikes-halladministration-expect-to-offer-plan-today-30749d47-1f0a-68f7-e-375729101.html>

Mike Eads

Clemson students and faculty remain entrenched in the lobby of Sikes Hall today, while President Jim Clements and his administrative team meet upstairs to discuss possible solutions to end a sit-in that is drawing attention to student and faculty concerns about exclusion, racial insensitivity and administrative inaction. "We're still going strong," said D.J. Smith, one of the organizers of the protest. "We've people inside and people out on the front steps. "We've been told the administrators are meeting now and going to present us something to us today, but we don't know when yet." As of noon today, that meeting hadn't taken place. Clemson spokesman John Gouch said that no word has come from Clements as to when or if the two sides will meet. The sit-in began after a noontime campus march Wednesday to demand more action from the university to improve the campus climate for minority students. It was also staged in part to sound off about a campus incident Monday — unidentified students hung bananas from an African-American history banner. Those students admitted their responsibility and will be dealt with under the university's Code of Conduct.

Greenville News: Clemson students petition against ticket pricing plan

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/04/12/clemson-students-petition-keep-football-tickets-free/82929276/>

Elizabeth Sanders

On the same day Clemson's Board of Trustees announced a big raise for Coach Dabo Swinney, students and alumni of the university were petitioning to keep their football tickets free, but the school says there is some misinformation about the newly proposed ticket plan. Julian Taylor, the Chairman of Athletics with Clemson's student government, created a petition on change.org saying the university is pushing to charge students \$225 for tickets to sit in the lower deck at Clemson football games beginning in fall 2016. The petition has amassed more than 8,000 signatures from students and alumni, with a goal of 10,000. University leaders say the petition is creating some confusion over whether the \$225 would be a mandatory fee. Student Body President Joey Wilson believes the plan is divisive, "We are concerned that this new policy will divide the Clemson Family between students who have the means to pay for season tickets and those who do not, and this has many negative implications."

The State: Williams-Brice Stadium field getting makeover

<http://www.thestate.com/sports/college/university-of-south-carolina/usc-football/article71659317.html>

The Williams-Brice Stadium playing surface looks very brown right now, but don't worry: the grass will be back. The Gamecocks' football home playing surface is undergoing a \$995,000 makeover that will include installation of a new drainage system, irrigation and sod. The previous grass has been removed and crews Wednesday were busy moving dirt. The spring game was played there Saturday. South Carolina's first home game is Sept. 17 against East Carolina. The work will be finished in July

in time for the Gamecocks' preseason practices that begin in August. South Carolina's first home game is Sept. 17 against East Carolina.

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg Methodist College looks to add more students

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160413/articles/160419826>

Zach Fox

The new president of Spartanburg Methodist College has launched an initiative to grow the school's student body. Scott Cochran, who was named SMC president in November, wants to increase the number of students at the school from around 800 to 1,000 over the next several years. "I think 1,000 (students) leads to a robust community," Cochran said. The college's campus on Powell Mill Road can accommodate that many students, Cochran said. He said the classrooms, residence halls and common areas should all be able to support the growth.

Post and Courier: North Charleston-made Dreamliner to make another flyover at RBC Heritage tournament

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160414/PC05/160419618>

David Wren

Boeing Co. will fly one of its North Charleston-made 787 Dreamliners over the crowd during Saturday's round at the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head, an event that is becoming an annual tradition for the aerospace giant. Boeing is the presenting sponsor of the tournament at Harbour Town Golf Links, which attracts 100,000 spectators each year and millions more on live television broadcasts. Saturday's round will be televised by the CBS network. The tournament started Thursday. Saturday's flyover of the 18th fairway is scheduled for 4 p.m., weather permitting. Mike Zavada, vice president of business operations for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said the flyover "is a great opportunity to showcase the technologically advanced products we are building just 100 miles up the road."

Sun News: Horry County facing tough decisions in distributing a-tax revenue

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article71644157.html>

Audrey Hudson

Funding requests for a slice of \$2.5 million in accommodations tax revenue far outweigh the amount of money Horry County expects to collect, meaning tough decisions for elected officials heading into final budget negotiations. Money collected from a 2 percent tax on stays in hotels and at other lodging is allocated to a special fund for tourism expenditures that includes funding for law enforcement during Atlantic Beach Bike Fest over Memorial Day weekend, but agencies and non-profits are asking for a total of nearly \$4 million in 2017 fiscal year dollars. "It's an undesirable situation from a funding perspective," said Barry Spivey, Horry County finance director. "There's not enough money to go around, that's an obvious thing." Horry County Council will make its final funding decisions at a budget retreat April 28. The 2017 fiscal year begins July 1.

Island Packet: Beaufort County seeks savings by self-funding health insurance

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article71822542.html>

Lucas High

In an effort to save about \$700,000 a year, Beaufort County has changed the way it will handle government employee insurance claims. Faced with the potential for rising costs in the coming years, Beaufort County Council voted unanimously earlier this week to self-fund its insurance program. The county has paid roughly \$12 million to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina to cover more than 1,100 full-time employees. The change will have no direct impact on employees, deputy county

administrator Josh Gruber said earlier this week. "The plan, networks and beneficiaries would all be the same," he said. But the county will now shoulder the risk of claim increases rather than the insurance company.

National News:

Associated Press: Ohio congressman objects to Bible removal at military base

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:424df9bb8631481095fb947a41830b7b>

An Ohio congressman said it's unacceptable that a Bible was removed from a POW display at a military base medical center. U.S. Rep. Mike Turner sent a letter Wednesday to the top general at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base objecting to the Bible's removal from a POW/MIA table display in the hospital's dining facility, The Dayton Daily News (<http://bit.ly/23FPk9E>) reported. The Bible was removed last week after the Military Religious Freedom Foundation complained, base spokeswoman Marie Vanover said in an email. The foundation received more than 30 complaints, 10 of which came from people identifying as Christians, according to Mikey Weinstein, the organization's founder and president. Turner's letter to Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski said he's concerned that "similar efforts to restrict religious freedom" may be made at other military sites. "It's a very dangerous precedent to have a group that has an issue campaign to effect policy on a government installation merely by complaining," the congressman said.

Associated Press: The Latest: Feds issue new, tougher offshore drilling rules

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:89cf127931854747b0d51fa5461a212b>

The Obama administration has issued new rules to make offshore oil and natural gas drilling equipment safer and to reduce risks in digging wells, but the oil industry is blasting those rules as unnecessary and costly. The rules were published Thursday by the Interior Department, nearly six years after the catastrophic blowout of a BP well in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 workers and injured many others. The out-of-control leak dumped millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf. The rules take aim at blowout preventers, massive valve-like devices meant to prevent oil and gas from escaping when a driller loses control of a well. The device failed in the BP spill. Industry leaders warn the rules could make it too costly to drill in some places.

Miami Herald: Guantánamo's oldest captive, 68, too dangerous to release, parole board decides

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/guantanamo/article71783717.html>

The Guantánamo parole board has rejected a plea for freedom from the prison's oldest war-on-terror captive, a 68-year-old Pakistani businessman, citing the prisoner's past ties to al-Qaida and declaring him too dangerous for release. Saifullah Paracha went before the national security board March 8, saying his preference was to rejoin family in Pakistan or go to the United States, where he lived from 1970 to 1986. Instead, the board cited his "refusal to take responsibility for his involvement with al-Qaida" and his "refusal to distinguish between legitimate and nefarious business contacts." The board also invoked "the detainee's past involvement in terrorist activities, including contacts and activities with" Osama bin Laden and the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, Khalid Sheik Mohammed. It said Paracha had a role in "facilitating financial transactions and travel, and developing media for al-Qaida."

Associated Press: Prosecutor won't pursue battery charge against Trump aide

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:d27da5a218084fc9a3a7ba7c1790d555>

Curt Anderson

Donald Trump's campaign manager will not be prosecuted on a misdemeanor battery charge after

prosecutors determined there wasn't enough evidence to convict him of forcibly grabbing a female reporter. Police charged Corey Lewandowski last month after determining a video recording showed the New York City resident grabbing reporter Michelle Fields by the arm as she tried to ask the Republican presidential front-runner a question as he was leaving a campaign event March 8. "Although there was probable cause to make an arrest, the evidence cannot prove all legally required elements of the crime alleged and is insufficient to support a criminal prosecution," according to a court document filed Thursday by state attorney Dave Aronberg. Fields, who worked for the conservative Breitbart News website at the time, tweeted a photograph of her bruised forearm and said she had been yanked backward. Lewandowski had denied grabbing Fields and Trump had stood by him, rejecting calls by his opponents to fire him. Instead he went after Fields, accusing her of exaggerating and changing her story.

Associated Press: The Latest: Trump gratified charges against manager dropped

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:ca0e554b695c4cf8b18f73c459c7cfcf>

Donald Trump's campaign manager says he is "gratified" by a Florida prosecutor's decision to drop a battery charge against him in an incident with a female reporter. Corey Lewandowski, in a statement released by the campaign on Thursday, said he "appreciates the thoughtful confederation and professionalism" displayed by the state attorney in Palm Beach. Lewandowski also said he appreciated Trump's "loyalty" and the support of his colleagues. The campaign's statement then declares "the matter is now concluded." Police had last month charged Corey Lewandowski after determining that a video recording showed him grabbing reporter Michelle Fields by the arm. She worked for the conservative Breitbart News website at the time and was trying to ask Trump a question after a March 8 appearance. The decision comes at a time when Lewandowski's influence in the campaign may be waning. While Lewandowski maintains the title campaign manager and travels with the candidate, Trump in recent weeks has hired a pair of veteran Washington operatives to take prominent roles in the campaign.

World News:

Associated Press: Nigerians march for Chibok girls on kidnapping anniversary

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:3a3f1f4377e74abb94cb95d3de31f0b0>

Michelle Faul

Angry over lack of progress to resolve one of the highest-profile mass kidnappings in the world, Nigerians marched in their country's major cities on Thursday to demand the safe return of girls who were abducted by Boko Haram extremists two years ago from a school in Chibok. Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo was expected in the northeastern town of Chibok for the anniversary of the kidnappings, said Yakubu Nkeki, leader of a support group of parents of the kidnapped girls. He said the community is angry that their only school remains in ruins. Boko Haram firebombed buildings as they took off with girls. Some 20,000 children in the town and its surroundings have no school to attend, Nkeki said Thursday as parents gathered at the ruins of the school to pray for the safe return of their daughters. "Boko Haram has achieved its aim. They say they don't want us to have Western education and our children don't," Nkeki said. Two years ago, the Islamic extremists seized 276 girls who had gathered for science exams at the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeast town of Chibok. Some managed to escape, jumping off pickup trucks as the Islamic extremists drove them toward the Sambisa Forest. A total of 219 remain missing.

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