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Subject: Clips – Sunday, May 29, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley to endorse Richard Skipper to replace Sen. Leatherman in the S.C. Senate
<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160528/160529285/gov-nikki-haley-to-endorse-richard-skipper-to-replace-sen-leatherman-in-the-sc-senate&source=RSS>

Derrek Asberry

Gov. Nikki Haley is to endorse Richard Skipper for the District 31 seat in the South Carolina Senate – the seat currently held by Sen. Hugh Leatherman, who Haley has outwardly opposed. The endorsement is scheduled during a campaign event at noon on June 1 at Wholly Smokin, 150 South Dargan St. in Florence. In a press release from Skipper's office, Haley states that the former Florence County GOP chairman will provide new leadership that will go toward efforts to fix the states infrastructure "instead of funding legislative pay raises and pet projects."

The State: How SC's leaders have failed South Carolinians

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80631387.html>

Cassie Cope, Sammy Fretwell and Jamie Self

South Carolina's state government is on life support. Left and right, state agencies – Education, Social Services, Transportation, Health and Environmental Control, Juvenile Justice – are saying they cannot do their jobs. They are underfunded. They can't fill vacancies. The salaries they pay are not competitive. Work loads are oppressive, causing workers to quit, and threats to the public to go undiscovered until there is a crisis. South Carolinians are suffering as a result. While South Carolinians suffer, the state's leaders fail to fix the problems. And they are not held accountable. Why?

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley and some lawmakers blame the lingering impact of the Great Recession. Others say years of devotion to the idea that government is too big have resulted in a government that is too small to support the state's growing population.

Note: After crises at her cabinet agencies, Gov. Haley said she has reacted swiftly to find out what went wrong and how best to fix it. Lawmakers have agreed to spend more money at her recommendation, she says. In an interview with The State newspaper, Haley said it's her responsibility to take care of her cabinet agencies. "I have to take care of them. I'm very hands-on. If there's a crisis, I have to lead on how to handle it."

New Kerala: Have courage for bold reforms, to engage opposition: Chidambaram to government

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2016/fullnews-69421.html>

Former finance minister P. Chidambaram on Saturday advised the Narendra Modi government to muster courage to go for "bold reforms" and "engage the opposition in order to give push to the economy". Taking a swipe at Modi government, he said that most of the policies initiated by it were actually launched by UPA and it has only "renamed" them. He also emphasized on social peace and harmony for creating conducive environment for high growth.

Note: Further reacting to South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's remark that one needed to know someone in the government to do business in India, Chidambaram said: "Doing business is not being made easier. In fact it may have become difficult because of the environment of suspicion that has been created all around. Every act is suspect and every decision is centralised. "I don't know what Governor Haley had in mind, but she felt that everything is so centralised and that is why unless you know someone, you can't get business done in India. I think she is more or less right."

The Hindu: NDA govt. does not deserve Rajan, says Chidambaram

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajan-one-of-the-most-outstanding-economists-says-chidambaram/article8659991.ece>

The former Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, on Saturday questioned the NDA government's claim that ease of doing business had improved under it. "We think that ease of doing business has not been made easier because of an atmosphere of suspicion..." he said. Assessing the state of the economy on the second anniversary of the government, Mr. Chidambaram was responding to remarks by the U.S. Republican Party's rising star and Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, that a "powerful" official system and a need for foreign companies to "know someone" in the government was making U.S. companies "nervous" about investing in India.

Palmetto Business: Derrick, Stubbs & Stith's Dailey tapped to serve on South Carolina Board of Accountancy
<http://palmettobusinessdaily.com/stories/510745600-derrick-stubbs-stith-s-dailey-tapped-to-serve-on-south-carolina-board-of-accountancy>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley recently chose Todd Dailey, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) and partner with Columbia-based Derrick, Stubbs & Stith LLP, to serve on the South Carolina Board of Accountancy. This board issues licenses to more than 6,000 CPAs across the Palmetto State. At Derrick, Stubbs & Stith, Dailey provides a variety of clients with accounting, auditing, taxation and consulting services. "Todd's commitment and knowledge as well as his work with SCACPA to improve the practice of public accounting in our state will be an asset to the South Carolina Board of Accountancy," Charles R. Statler, Jr., managing partner at Derrick, Stubbs & Stith, said. "Everyone at Derrick Stubbs congratulates him on this honor and supports his vital work on the board."

General Assembly News:

Morning News: Education funding proposals lagging in legislature

http://m.scnow.com/news/education/article_331e1a7a-2521-11e6-a987-c3de849cc17b.html?mode=jqm

Jake Crouse

Governor Nikki Haley laid out some specific policy ideas in her State of the State address in January to aid student success in rural and often impoverished school districts throughout the state. Many of these ideas, however, have yet to be considered or legislated on this session. Most notably, a plan that would allow a \$200 million-a-year borrowing plan will die in the legislature this session, according to state senators last week. Schools that chose to use the fund would have to repay the loan, but no clear specifics were given for that time window.

Note: Though her intention was good with this point, says Chesterfield County Superintendent Harrison Goodwin, that program would do little to build new facilities or carry out significant revamping. His previous experience before leading school districts was in school facility construction, so he did some calculations to make his point.

Associated Press: Cellphone fees, education mandates among new state laws

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

Seanna Adcox

New laws in South Carolina extend taxes to cellphones, require students to learn about America's "founding principles," and fix a quirk in campaign finance law that has entangled many state officials. The Legislature has passed dozens of measures in the final weeks of its session, which officially ends Thursday. A few of them...

Associated Press: SC lawmakers agree to budget with 3.25 percent pay increase

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VFEQ1Qwc

Seanna Adcox

Legislators have agreed to a roughly \$7.5 billion spending plan that increases state employees' pay by 3.25 percent, puts \$30 million into replenishing sand on South Carolina's beaches and provides local governments an additional \$11 million. Those were among the compromises Saturday by a six-member panel negotiating a final budget package for the fiscal year starting July 1. Both chambers are expected to pass it this week.

The State: THE BUZZ: State Library scuffle ends – quietly

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80580062.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

A controversy involving the State Library ended quietly last week after a House-Senate committee, trying to reach a compromise on the state budget that takes effect July 1, removed a proposal that would have restricted the agency's virtual library. State Rep. Leon Stavrakis, D-Charleston, had proposed prohibiting the State Library from using its state appropriations "to license reference products where the same information is easily found in free online products such as Wikipedia." The proposal also would have barred the library from licensing databases of articles from newspapers and magazines, saying those articles almost always can be accessed free online and are discovered easily through internet search engines.

Associated Press: Richland County rec director faces several drug charges

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jMgC3R6v

SC State Wire

Authorities say the director of recreation in Richland County has been charged with several drug trafficking offenses. Richland County deputies told media outlets that 38-year-old James Anthony Brown was arrested Friday at a home near an elementary school in the northeast part of the county. Investigators say he had more than 10 pounds of marijuana along with nearly a pound of methamphetamines and ecstasy. Brown faces nine separate charges, and it wasn't known if he had an attorney.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina bill would allow PE credit for marching band

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160528/AIK0101/160529436>

Larry Wood

Melissa Goldman, whose son, Ryan, will be a freshman at Aiken High in the fall and is in the marching band, said she would favor a proposal in the state Senate to make participation in marching band a physical education credit in state schools. "We're considering holding off taking PE just in case the proposal becomes law," Goldman said. "If band becomes a PE credit, that would be great." S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, who sits on the Senate Education Committee, said there was no opposition to the bill in the Senate, where S. 1204 passed three readings. It was sent May 26 to the House, where the bill awaits first reading. Because the bill was filed late in the legislative session, it will be difficult but not impossible for the bill to pass three House readings by Thursday's deadline. Young said the bill could still pass by then if it's taken up without reference.

SC Political News:

Business Insider: Lindsey Graham on the Republican Party after Trump: 'We either get smarter or die'

<http://www.businessinsider.com/lindsey-graham-republican-party-trump-2016-5>

Pamela Engel

Sen. Lindsey Graham characterized the crisis facing the Republican Party in grim terms on Friday, saying that the party needs to adapt or die after the 2016 presidential election. The South Carolina senator called the matchup between Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, and Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, a "race to the bottom." During a talk at The Common Good Forum in New York on Friday, Foreign Affairs managing editor Jonathan Tepperman asked Graham what would happen to the Republican Party after the election. Graham responded, "We either get smarter or die."

Post and Courier: Memorial Militia guy now heads Bikers for Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160528/160529384/memorial-militia-guy-now-heads-bikers-for-trump>

Mount Pleasant woodcarver and artist Chris Cox, who made international news in 2013 when he formed the Memorial Militia to clean up the National Mall during the government shutdown, will go big-time Sunday with his latest cause: promoting Donald Trump. Cox is founder of Bikers for Trump, which for the past few months has been traveling the country adding an extra layer of security and promotion at Trump rallies and events. This weekend the group will be part of the massive biker presence descending on Washington, D.C., for the

annual Memorial Day weekend Rolling Thunder roundup. Hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists are expected to throttle into the nation's capitol.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: DSS audit of food vouchers after flood uncovers hundreds of fraud cases

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160529/PC16/160529407>

Dave Munday

Hundreds of people who applied for extra food vouchers after the historic flooding in South Carolina in October will have to pay the money back or face fraud charges. The Department of Social Services has completed a random audit of the 178,000 residents who were approved for help after the flood. The audit of 9,029 claims found that about 3.3 percent had lied. That includes 28 fraudulent claims uncovered in the tri-county area. As an example of fraud, an applicant might have claimed to be unemployed and the audit found he was working, according to DSS spokeswoman Karen Wingo.

Greenville News: 'Alarmed' by fraud, senators call for expanded audit of food stamp cases

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/28/alarmed-fraud-senators-call-expanded-audit-food-stamp-cases/85033522/>

Tim Smith

One out of every 13 sampled cases of Greenville County residents who received flood-related food stamps last year was fraudulent, state records show, and a key senator wants the state to expand its fraud audit of Greenville County and other counties where a random sampling showed fraud in a disproportionately high number of cases. Overall, according to records provided to The Greenville News by the state Department of Social Services, 68 cases of fraud were detected from a sampling of 880 cases in Greenville County. That amounts to 7.7 percent, second only to Lexington County's 12.6 percent in the percentage of cases sampled in which fraud was found.

SC Elections:

Post and Courier: S.C. Sen. Lee Bright, pro-gun lawmaker pushing the gender bathroom bill faces a battle at home

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160528/160529399/sc-sen-lee-bright-pro-gun-lawmaker-pushing-the-gender-bathroom-bill-faces-a-battle-at-home>

Cynthia Roldan

One of South Carolina's most well-known and controversial state legislators, Sen. Lee Bright, is facing a bitter Republican primary against three candidates who echo each other in their message: Anyone but Bright. The Roebuck Republican's challengers say they're fed up with what they called his attention-grabbing "antics." Even the S.C. Chamber of Commerce says it's time for Bright to go. They all point to similar frustrations. Like the time Bright raffled off an AR-15 military-style rifle to raise money for his unsuccessful U.S. Senate bid. Or the fact that he almost always votes against the state's yearly spending proposal. Or that he once sold Confederate battle flag bumper stickers when attention had turned to removing the banner from the Statehouse grounds.

Greenville News: Elliott challenging Nanney in SC House District 22

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/05/28/elliott-challenging-nanney-sc-house-district-22/83982756/>

Rudolph Bell

State Rep. Wendy Nanney faces what is likely her biggest challenge since voters first picked her to represent part of Greenville in 2008. Fellow Republican Jason Elliott has mounted an aggressive bid to defeat her in the party primary on June 14. Elliott, an attorney who worked for Jim DeMint when he was the congressman for Greenville/Spartanburg, has criticized Nanney for missing votes in Columbia and wanting to keep the Confederate flag flying on the Statehouse grounds. Nanney benefited when legislation she sponsored that's popular with social conservatives was adopted and re-surfaced in the news. Gov. Niki Haley signed the

measure banning abortion after 19 weeks on May 25. Elliott says he supports it.

Aiken Standard: Massey, Pettigrew running for S.C. Senate District 25 seat

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160528/AIK0101/160529431>

Christina Cleveland

Republicans John Pettigrew and incumbent Sen. Shane Massey are running for the S.C. Senate District 25 seat. Pettigrew is a small businessman in Edgefield and owner of Pettigrew Properties, according to a campaign news release. He previously was elected Edgefield mayor and served in the S.C. House of Representatives from 1987-88. He also was Edgefield County administrator and was on the staff of Sen. Strom Thurmond, his release states.

Associated Press: Darlington sheriff fires 2 deputies for campaigning for him

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=z9xCBoUP

SC State Wire

Darlington County Sheriff Wayne Byrd says he fired two deputies for conducting campaign business for him while in uniform and using a county vehicle. Byrd said the deputies went to a store during their lunch break and bought items for one of his events. One officer was in uniform and they were in a county vehicle. Byrd says he has told his deputies they can't do any campaign business while on duty or using government-owned equipment. The sheriff fired six deputies for campaigning for his opponent in 2012 and says he has to be fair.

Greenville News: Five vie for top law enforcement job

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/05/28/five-vie-top-law-enforcement-job/84552412/>

Anna Lee

Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis faces his most contested race yet since being elected to office 13 years ago. Loftis, who is seeking his fourth full term, has four Republican challengers: Bruce Cannon, Hobart Lewis, Will Lewis and Sam Manley. All are former Greenville County deputies who say it's time for new leadership at the Sheriff's Office and have spent much of the campaign so far criticizing Loftis' administration. Loftis, however, says it's his experience that's needed, especially at a time when law enforcement agencies are under increased and intense scrutiny.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: 3 days, 3 reforms, and failure is still an option

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article80387622.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

A MONTH AGO, after the Senate passed a bill to let an independent panel investigate legislators' ethics compliance, and a bill to require public officials to tell us where they get their income, and a road-funding plan that wasn't nearly as irresponsible as its first one — all in one week — there was an outbreak of irrational exuberance at the State House. Not only were the pieces all in place for the Legislature to enact some serious ethics reforms and overhaul the parochial Transportation Commission, the cockeyed optimists said, but lawmakers might even wrap up their work early. How droll.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Storm reaches South Carolina coast

<http://bigstory.ap.org/94815f91c0094f5dbb92331eaaa30edc>

Tropical Depression Bonnie has reached the South Carolina coast, bringing heavy rain and rough tides to an area packed with tourists for the Memorial Day weekend. The National Hurricane Center said the center of the storm made landfall just east of Charleston, South Carolina, on the Isle of Palms around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. Forecasters say up to 8 inches of rain have fallen in parts of southern South Carolina. A flash flood warning was issued for Jasper County, where highway workers reported water to part of Interstate 95. About 3 inches of rain fell in Charleston in 24 hours and more is expected, according to the National Weather

Service.

Associated Press: Storm reaches South Carolina shore

<http://bigstory.ap.org/91287d66b92c44a788a27436ffbb8c9e>

On Saturday, heavy rain and dangerous surf kept people off the Georgia, South Carolina and southern North Carolina beaches. No evacuations had been ordered. Officials in Charleston were monitoring the winds. The area has 15 bridges over water that are at least 65-feet tall that are closed when winds get 40 mph or above. Forecasters said an isolated tornado or two will be possible early Sunday over the immediate coastal region from central South Carolina through southern North Carolina.

Post and Courier: Tropical storm no more: Bonnie downgraded to tropical depression off S.C. coast

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160529/PC16/160529265>

Tropical Storm Bonnie is no more. The slowly weakening system was officially downgraded to a tropical depression off the coast of South Carolina around 8 a.m. Sunday. Tropical Storm Bonnie "slowed to a crawl" Saturday night and lost some steam as it continued to move north overnight. The system continues to dump rain on the Lowcountry, however, prompting a flash flood warning for Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties through 11:45 a.m. A tropical storm warning, cancelled earlier for some inland areas of the Lowcountry including Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper counties, remained in effect for inland and tidal Berkeley and Charleston counties through the early morning hours until the storm weakened into a tropical depression, according to the National Weather Service.

Local News:

Morning News: 12,000 flags placed at Florence National Cemetery for Memorial Day

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_ce4809b0-2509-11e6-bfca-e345bba132f0.html

Megan May

Volunteers placed around 12,000 American flags at markers in the Florence National Cemetery on Saturday morning in preparation for Monday's Memorial Day service. The event was one of hundreds being held throughout the country in every national cemetery this week. MSgt. Robert J. Holcombe, the master of ceremonies, brought this fact to the attention of participating volunteers. "Remember that you are, along with thousands more, honoring our veterans who have come before us," Holcombe said. "This is Memorial Day; it's Remembrance Day."

Index Journal: Greenwood PD closing in on body cameras for all officers

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/ON-WATCH-16709368>

Adam Benson

It's only a matter of time. That's what Greenwood leaders say about outfitting all 58 city police officers with body cameras -- now a requirement under state law. But purchasing the equipment is such a priority that City Manager Charlie Barrineau said officials might spend the \$435,000 now to bring the system online rather than wait for state reimbursement money to become immediately available first.

Note: Last June, Gov. Nikki Haley made South Carolina the first state requiring every law enforcement agency to wear body cameras. Under the measure, departments would be reimbursed for equipment purchasing costs.

Greenville News: Pickens County, sued over jail overcrowding, seeks solutions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/05/28/pickens-county-sued-over-jail-overcrowding-seeks-solutions/84783750/>

Ron Barnett

From the outside, the Pickens County Detention Center looks quiet and serene, an unassuming appendage off the back end of the Sheriff's Office headquarters. Inside, it is teeming with humanity. Inmates are packed elbow to elbow in cells designed for half as many. On a recent random weekday, there were 195 locked up in a facility designed for 91. That doesn't count the nine trustees from the state prison system who have been assigned here to help with the cooking and cleaning. It's a problem that county officials have been reluctant to

take head on for obvious reasons. The price tag for a new jail is up to \$25 million, which would require a whopping 55-mill tax increase in a county where tax is four-letter word.

Post and Courier: Summerville families: 'No one is paying' for Bikefest triple slaying

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160529/PC16/160529639>

Andrew Knapp

For Sandy Barnwell's loved ones, every Memorial Day weekend is a reminder of the unanswered question that follows them everywhere. Who shot Barnwell, Jamie Williams and Devonte Dantzler to death two years ago in Myrtle Beach, where hundreds had gathered to celebrate Atlantic Beach Bikefest? Despite a host of witnesses there, nobody has helped police make an arrest, leading the families of the Summerville-area victims unable to face the person who took the three lives. Knowing that someone holds the answer makes this occasion more frustrating.

The State: Flood survivors throw thank-you party for contractor 'angels'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article80599622.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Words get caught in Eric Tucker's throat, his face flushing and eyes turning watery, as he tries to describe his gratitude to one of the men who helped restore his home and his life after the October flood. "He's helped us when he didn't even have to," Tucker said. "This guy is absolutely a saint." Tucker and his Forest Lake Place condominium neighbors welcomed their "angels," as one resident described them, for a thank-you party Saturday honoring the restorative work they have done over nearly the past eight months.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry prepped for Zika, mosquito managers say

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160528/PC16/160529388>

Bo Petersen

The Lowcountry could handle an outbreak of mosquito-borne Zika virus, managers say, despite the recent state announcement that Berkeley and Dorchester counties have "little-to-moderate" resources to fight one. The reason is simple: West Nile virus, which the counties have been surveilling and treating for years. Zika outbreaks would be handled the same way, and "we're prepared for (West Nile) and have been for some time," said Frank Carson, Charleston County mosquito control manager.

National News:

Associated Press: 3 people still missing after floods in Kansas and Texas

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6307824f57484d859a332b707ce88897>

Michael Graczyk

At least three people were still missing Sunday after being swept away in Texas and Kansas, and slowly rising rivers in southeast Texas have led to numerous evacuations, including two prisons. Four people have died due to the flooding that followed torrential rains in some parts of the U.S. over the last few days. But the threat of severe weather has lessened over the long Memorial Day holiday for many places, though Tropical Depression Bonnie continued to bring rain and wind to North and South Carolina.

Associated Press: Judge orders release of documents in Trump University suit

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2d6a723d1ec349c0ae7dfa5549128447>

A federal judge is ordering the release of Trump University internal documents in a class-action lawsuit against the now-defunct real estate school owned by presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The order by U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel in San Diego, which came Friday in response to a request by The Washington Post, calls for the documents to be released by Thursday. The Post reported the order in a story on its website Saturday.

World News:

Associated Press: UN: 700 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean shipwrecks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/7135d796d1704163b8e86c66c4c050df>

Sarah El Deeb

Over 700 migrants are feared dead in three Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks south of Italy in the last few days as they tried desperately to reach Europe in unseaworthy smuggling boats, the U.N. refugee agency said Sunday. The shipwrecks over three days appear to account for the largest loss of life reported in the Mediterranean since April 2015, when a single ship sank with an estimated 800 people trapped inside.

Associated Press: Syria's cease-fire strengthens al-Qaida branch

<http://bigstory.ap.org/57bc8b0711074d74bd4b90bbf0292290>

Sarah El Deeb and Bassem Mroue

Al-Qaida's branch in Syria has recruited thousands of fighters, including teenagers, and taken territory from government forces in a successful offensive in the north, illustrating how the cease-fire put in place by Russia and the United States to weaken the militants has in many ways backfired. The branch, known as the Nusra Front, has churned out a flood of videos — slickly produced in the style of its rival, the Islamic State group — that show off its recruitment drive. In one, young men line up for combat training. In another, a bearded al-Qaida fighter in a mosque urges a crowd of men to join jihad. A third shows an al-Qaida-linked cleric leading a graduation ceremony, handing out weapons to young men.

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