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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, May 11, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Herald-Journal: Company to invest \$2.5M in Cherokee County, create 77 jobs

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160511/articles/160519923>

A Missouri-based company that makes plumbing fixtures will invest \$2.5 million and create 77 new jobs in Cherokee County, S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office announced Wednesday. Sioux Chief Manufacturing will relocate its corporate headquarters and house its engineering, manufacturing and warehouse distribution operations in Chesnee at 815 Pickens St. The company plans to be fully operational this quarter and hiring for new positions has begun.

Note: "We're thrilled to see the impact this decision will have on the people of Cherokee, and look forward to seeing this fantastic company thrive here for many years to come," Haley said in a statement.

Times and Democrat: Governor plans veto of aid for S.C. farms

http://thetandd.com/business/governor-plans-veto-of-aid-for-s-c-farms/article_53b6dce0-165d-11e6-89fc-0fa97d08e786.html

Gene Zaleski

A bill to provide flood relief funds for farmers cleared the General Assembly this past week but faces a promised veto by Gov. Nikki Haley. A veto does not sit well with local farmers. "Why not sign the bill?" Orangeburg County farmer Edwin Smoak said. "I think that agriculture is something that needs all the support it can get. I sit down to a meal three times a day and that is because of agriculture." Smoak said though he will be able to survive another year through crop insurance, the full impact of last year's historic flooding may not be known for another four or five years.

Note: Haley has consistently stated she would veto the legislation, saying farmers shouldn't be treated differently than other flood-impacted businesses in South Carolina. The Republican governor reiterated Monday her veto will be based on fairness. "My heart breaks for farmers," Haley said. But "it would be wrong to bail out the farmers when we can't bail out small businesses, when we can't bail out homeowners."

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Bill banning Sharia Law in South Carolina dead for year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5LN8viXD

SC State Wire

A bill prohibiting South Carolina courts from enforcing foreign law in the state appears dead for this session. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 10-9 on Wednesday against passing the bill, whose main purpose was to prevent Sharia Law from coming to the United States. Supporters say preventing judges from using laws based in Islam can protect America. Opponents say it solves a problem that doesn't exist because the state and U.S. constitutions assure no court can ever use foreign law.

Post and Courier: Senate panel narrowly kills bill outlawing Sharia law defense in courts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519878>

Maya. T. Prabhu

A bill that would have made Sharia law an illegal defense in South Carolina courts was narrowly defeated in the Senate Wednesday after no discussion. The bill failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee with a 9-10 vote. "There's no need to talk about it, let's just do it," said Committee Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, as the vote was being taken. Martin voted in favor of the legislation.

Post and Courier: Ban on Sharia law defense in S.C. courts dies at the Statehouse

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519878>

Maya T. Prabhu

A bill that would have made the Muslim world's Sharia law an illegal defense in South Carolina courts was narrowly defeated in the state Senate on Wednesday, killing it for the year. The measure, sponsored by Charleston Republican Rep. Chip Limehouse, would have prevented an attorney from arguing that the laws of a client's home country allow for certain actions in South Carolina. "I'm not surprised," Limehouse said of the bill's failure to advance. "The Senate can be the graveyard of many good ideas."

Associated Press: Bill lets bankrupt residents hold on to \$5,000 worth of guns

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolinians going through bankruptcy could keep \$5,000 worth of their guns from creditors under a bill advancing in the Senate. Rep. Alan Clemmons says people who fall on hard times should not have to give up heirloom weapons passed down through generations. The Myrtle Beach Republican says his bill is also about allowing people to keep guns for protection. The bill sent Wednesday to the Senate Judiciary Committee is also designed to help bankrupt widows keep their homes.

Post and Courier: Second Amendment Preservation Act faces procedural hurdle, Charleston senator vows same fate for other firearm bills

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC1603/160519882>

Cynthia Roldan

Charleston's Sen. Marlon Kimpson vowed Wednesday to block every bill that seeks to expand access to firearms, shortly after placing a procedural hold on a proposal that seeks to prevent the state from enforcing federal gun laws that took effect this year. Kimpson, a Democrat, blocked advancement of the Second Amendment Preservation Act, a bill that breezed through the House of Representatives, in spite of the concerns of several House members.

Greenville News: Second amendment bill advances to Senate floor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/11/second-amendment-bill-advances-senate-floor/84220454/>

Tim Smith

A House-passed bill that would prohibit the enforcement of certain federal gun laws is headed to the Senate floor but its detractors could keep the legislation from being passed before next month's adjournment. The Second Amendment Preservation Act would ban the state enforcement of any federal law or regulation which goes into effect after last year that limits the right of a person to own, possess or use a firearm, ammunition or accessory.

Walter Scott Case:

Associated Press: White ex-cop to remain free on bail after federal indictment

<http://bigstory.ap.org/15a9b91a18604b61882267eee16e2439>

Bruce Smith and Meg Kinnard

A white former South Carolina police officer facing a state murder charge in the shooting death of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott will remain free on bail after his indictment on federal charges

that include depriving the victim of his civil rights. During a hearing Wednesday in Charleston, a federal judge made the decision for Michael Slager, who was indicted this week on federal charges that also include obstruction of justice and unlawful use of a weapon during the commission of a crime. Slager, who is free on bail on state charges, will not have to put up any additional bond in the federal case. He entered a not-guilty plea during the federal hearing.

Associated Press: The Latest: Ex-officer remains free on bond in federal case

<http://bigstory.ap.org/0a034244f6c34bd2a3f8b74be45fc2bc>

A white former South Carolina police officer facing a state murder charge in the shooting death of unarmed black motorist Walter Scott is being allowed to stay out of jail while new federal charges are pending. A federal judge on Wednesday made that determination at a hearing in Charleston for Michael Slager. Slager will not have to post additional bond. He entered a not-guilty plea. Slager was indicted this week on federal charges including depriving Scott of his civil rights. He's also charged with obstruction of justice and unlawful use of a weapon during the commission of a crime.

Associated Press: The Latest: Lawyer: Officer's federal indictment is historic

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aVclG4tR

SC State Wire

An attorney for relatives of a black motorist who was killed by a white North Charleston police officer says the U.S. Justice Department is making history by indicting the former officer in the case. Attorney Chris Stewart tells the Associated Press it's amazing that after all the cases over the past 20 years the federal government has decided to indict an officer.

Post and Courier: UPDATE: Attorney for family of Walter Scott proud of federal government for stepping in

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC16/160519884>

Andrew Knapp

Chris Stewart, attorney for Walter Scott's family, said he is proud of the federal government for stepping in and sending a message to law enforcement who abuse power that they may be able to escape local prosecution but not federal. "The government has said, 'This will stop,'" he said. Scott's brother, Anthony Scott, said the federal indictment on civil rights and obstruction charges was an important development to get justice in the case.

The State: Federal grand jury indicts ex-North Charleston officer in shooting of African-American man

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article76938042.html>

John Monk

Michael Slager, the former North Charleston white police officer charged with the fatal shooting of an unarmed African-American man, was indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday. Slager, 35, was indicted on three charges: obstruction of justice, use of a weapon during the commission of a crime of violence and the civil rights violation of deprivation of rights under color of law. The indictment does not accuse Slager of a hate crime.

LGBT Laws:

Associated Press: North Carolina's transgender law creates tangle of lawsuits

<http://bigstory.ap.org/334fc7c9269a4d11ad88c27109870213>

Jonathan Drew

The dueling lawsuits over North Carolina's law on bathroom use by transgender people have landed in the hands of three federal judges appointed by Republican presidents. Legal experts say both sides are trying to maneuver into the most favorable courtroom possible. Observers expect some or all of the five cases to be combined. But it remains to be seen whether they will be decided in the court picked by the law's opponents for its moderate reputation, or in the more conservative court

chosen by the measure's GOP supporters.

Charlotte Observer: Making sense of the battle over HB2

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article76808957.html>

Michael Gordon

Four lawsuits, three judges, two courts – and a load of questions. The war of words over North Carolina's House Bill 2 erupted Monday into legal battle that could be fought on multiple fronts. The state and federal government traded lawsuits and fighting words about the state's so-called "bathroom law" through much of the day.

Charlotte Observer: Anti-transgender law cited in allowing NC high schoolers to carry Mace, pepper spray on campus

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article76920717.html>

Joe Maruska

High school students in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools can take Mace and pepper spray to school beginning in August. One school board member said the weapon could help ward off an attack in a girl's bathroom as debate rages over North Carolina's HB2 law and which bathrooms transgender students should use.

South Carolina News:

The State: States require opioid prescribers to check for 'doctor shopping'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article76926952.html>

Christine Vestal

For more than a decade, doctors, dentists and nurse practitioners have liberally prescribed opioid painkillers despite mounting evidence that people were becoming addicted and overdosing on the powerful pain medications. Now, in the face of a drug overdose epidemic that killed more than 28,000 people in 2014, a handful of states are insisting that health professionals do a little research before they write another prescription for highly addictive drugs like Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin.

Note: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, announced in April that New York had joined his state in sharing PDMP information, along with Connecticut, Delaware, Minnesota, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

Associated Press: Feds: Plane that crashed in NY broke apart midair, killing 3

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=f8AmoIDh

SC State Wire

preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board says a small plane that crashed in New York tore apart piece by piece in midair, killing all three people aboard. Newsday reports (<http://nwsdy.li/1VSV0Mt>) the NTSB says pieces of the tail and the interior overhead panel were found at the beginning of a nearly half-mile debris field in Syosset (seye-AH'-siht). The plane was headed from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to Plainville, Connecticut, when it crashed May 3 on Long Island.

Associated Press: Hootie & the Blowfish among recipients of top SC arts award

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hT4jV8dQ

SC State Wire

One of South Carolina's most recognizable native bands has received the state's top art honor. The members of Grammy Award-winning Hootie & the Blowfish received the 2016 Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts during a ceremony on Wednesday at the Statehouse. The South Carolina Arts Commission Board says the Verner award is the highest honor the state presents in the arts. Established in 1972, the annual awards recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

Local News:

Sun News: Second Horry County Police official announces retirement

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article76986027.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County Deputy Chief Scott Rutherford, commander of special operations, submitted his retirement papers on Wednesday becoming the second top official to announce their leave of the agency in recent weeks. Rutherford's retirement takes effect June 6, ending a 25-year career with the department, said Lisa Bourcier, Horry County spokeswoman. Rutherford's announcement comes less than a week after Sandra Rhodes's last day as police chief.

Sun News: Council panel asks for study on possible sheriff, police merger

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/crime/article76963057.html>

Audrey Hudson

Horry County council members have asked for a study to examine the pros and cons of merging the county police department with the sheriff's office. A county attorney was asked during a Wednesday meeting of the Public Safety Committee to examine the issue and present the findings to the panel, after the request from Councilman Paul Prince. Prince said he has been interested in merging the agencies for years.

Associated Press: Cops: Barber shows gun, tells man he doesn't cut black hair

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5aa769da42144b4390670a6d20b90dcd>

Authorities in South Carolina say a barber with a history of aggressive behavior toward potential customers faces charges for pulling a gun on a man and telling him he "does not cut black hair." A York County Sheriff's Office report says when the man asked 65-year-old Larry Thomas what he meant, the man said Thomas grabbed a pistol and held it at his side. Public Information Officer Trent Faris said the incident report didn't indicate the victim's race. In one of eight similar instances dating back to 2007, Faris said Thomas, who is white, used pepper spray on a customer after getting into an argument. Thomas is jailed for pointing and presenting firearms at a person. His bond is \$3,000, and it's not known if he has an attorney.

Greenville News: Coroner: Deontea Mackey tested positive for marijuana

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/11/coroner-deontea-mackey-tested-positive-marijuana/84222272/>

Romando Dixon

The teenager who fatally shot Officer Allen Jacobs tested positive for marijuana, Coroner Parks Evans said Wednesday, releasing the results of Mackey's toxicology report. Deontea Mackey, 17, shot and killed Jacobs then killed himself on March 18, authorities said.

Post and Courier: Activists call for attorney general to intervene in double shooting case

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC16/160519879>

Bo Petersen

Calling the killing of two men who were buried in a backyard blatant murder, civil rights activist Elder James Johnson said Wednesday his group would not stand for the trial of James Edward Loftis to be handled as a "stand your ground" case. Johnson, state coordinator for activist Al Sharpton's National Action Network, said the group will call for Attorney General Alan Wilson to intervene in the Berkeley County case against Loftis, 39, who has said that he acted in self-defense when he shot two people, taxi driver Guma Oz Dubar, 46, and James Cody Newland, 32, on March 5.

Associated Press: Man gets 31 years for killing his ex-middle school teacher

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=p4tUANcy

SC State Wire

Prosecutors say a teacher told her former student that she loved him as he strangled her in a

Greenville motel room. Media outlets reported 23-year-old Darrin Eskew pleaded guilty but mentally ill to the March 2014 killing Wednesday and was sentenced to 31 years in prison. Authorities say after strangling 39-year-old Laurie Patton, Eskew wrapped her body in a sheet and set it on fire.

Greenville News: Coroner: Greenville toddler choked while eating

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/05/11/greenville-county-sheriffs-office-investigates-1-year-olds-death/84222306/>

Romando Dixon

A 1-year-old girl died Wednesday morning after she choked while eating lunch, the Greenville County Coroner's Office said. Deputies and EMS responded to Creative Kids Child Development Center on Sevier Street after receiving a call that a 1-year-old was not breathing about 11:08 a.m. Wednesday, Master Deputy Pinciario said. EMS transported the child to the hospital and the 1-year-old was pronounced dead at 11:58 a.m. Wednesday, Coroner Parks Evans said.

Post and Courier: Charleston man accused of defrauding Holly Hill church

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC16/160519881>

Dave Munday

A Charleston man took \$20,000 for work at a Holly Hill church and then disappeared with the money, according to the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office. William Arthur Holmes, 55, of Chloe Drive was arrested Wednesday on a charge of breach of trust with fraudulent intent. He was booked into the Orangeburg County jail and his bail set at \$5,000.

The State: Virginia power company draws protest in Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article76976292.html>

Sammy Fretwell

Protesters showed up at a national energy company's annual shareholders meeting Wednesday in Columbia as part of a campaign to stop a nearly 600-mile-long natural gas pipeline through Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia. Pipeline opponents carried signs and banners outside the Hilton on Senate Street, where Dominion Resources shareholders met. Dominion Resources, which recently established an office in Columbia, has been under fire over a plan that critics say will disrupt Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia communities, while increasing safety and pollution concerns.

Associated Press: Federal court considers challenge to elementary graduation

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WjN14Jap

SC State Wire

A federal court in Virginia is considering a challenge to a Greenville County elementary school's graduation ceremony at a Christian university. The Greenville News reported (<http://grnol.co/1WommKp>) a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Tuesday. A lawsuit was filed in 2013 by the American Humanist Association on behalf of a fifth-grade student at Mountain View Elementary School in Taylors. The lawsuit contends the school improperly holds its graduation at Baptist-affiliated North Greenville University in Tigerville.

Associated Press: Seeking donations: Florence clamps down on donation boxes

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

SC State Wire

The city of Florence is cracking down on the number of unattended donation bins where people can recycle old clothing and shoes. The Morning News of Florence reports (<http://bit.ly/1VT2peN>) that city council is concerned that many of the boxes are placed by for-profit businesses. Council is taking steps to regulate their use.

Morning News: Darlington Walmart opens its doors

http://www.scnow.com/multimedia/article_ff461c26-177d-11e6-b10e-c3c948f3ec19.html

Joe Perry

Darlingtonians can now go Walmarting right in their backyard. The new 122,000 square-foot Supercenter opened this morning with speeches by Mayor Gloria Hines, Walmart officials and performances by Darlington High School's chorus and marching band "I feel like we got a new toy in town," Hines told the cheering crowd in the packed parking lot. "We are excited to have our very first Walmart that we can call our own."

Post and Courier: Thyssenkrupp establishing distribution center in North Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160511/PC05/160519852>

David Wren

Thyssenkrupp Industrial Services will create 32 jobs with a \$1.4 million distribution center in North Charleston, the state's Commerce Department said Wednesday. The project, at about 200,000 square feet, will operate within a Foreign Trade Zone at 9004-I Sightline Drive in the Palmetto Commerce Park and will specialize in warehousing and transportation to and from the Port of Charleston as well as export packaging.

National News:

Associated Press: Clinton on track despite sound defeat by Sanders in WV

<http://bigstory.ap.org/2dfe3feaf35e4fe9a97345b28a211074>

Lisa Lerer and Ken Thomas

Bernie Sanders has won his 19th state, only four short of Hillary Clinton's tally, but that's not the gap that counts. Despite his decisive victory in West Virginia on Tuesday, winning 51 percent of the vote to her 36 percent, Sanders trails nearly hopelessly in the contest for delegates needed to secure the Democratic presidential nomination. Clinton is in the mop-up phase now, 94 percent of the way to the magic number when the party insiders known as superdelegates are included, and on track to clinch the nomination in early June.

Associated Press: Trump and restive GOP leaders to seek more of a partnership

<http://bigstory.ap.org/af4b497bb0fa4de4bafef70c4e5198fb>

Steve Peoples and Erica Werner

His party leaders left with no alternative, Donald Trump is drawing reluctant support from top Washington Republicans now that voters have put him on a glide path to the GOP presidential nomination. If he can't get restive Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan on side, he says he'll keep on winning anyway.

World News:

Associated Press: Future of Brazil's president on the line in key Senate

<http://bigstory.ap.org/588f5bd707ee4380b646b59499ddc148>

Jenny Barchfield and Peter Prengaman

Brazil's Senate on Wednesday neared a historic vote on impeaching President Dilma Rousseff, likely ending 13 years of government by her leftist party amid a spate of crises besetting Latin America's largest nation. If a simple majority of the 81 senators votes in favor, Rousseff will be suspended from office and Vice President Michel Temer will take over for up to six months pending a decision on whether to remove her from office permanently. Senate President Renan Calheiros said he wants the vote to take place on Wednesday night and impeachment appeared to be foregone conclusion.

Associated Press: Additional bombings bring death toll to 93 across Baghdad

<http://bigstory.ap.org/697dc71f104944599d4f8390bf2f2f44>

Sinan Salaheddin and Susannah George

Three separate car bombings in the Iraqi capital Wednesday killed at least 93 people and wounded at least 165. The Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for all three bombings. In recent months, the extremist faction has lost some of the Iraqi territory it conquered in a stunning 2014 blitz.

But Wednesday's carnage demonstrates the group's lingering ability to launch significant attacks across the country and in the heart of the capital.

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