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To:
Date: 5/27/2014 7:49:41 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, May 27, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Competing state budget plans move toward finish line at S.C. General Assembly
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1603/140529642/1177/competing-state-budget-plans-move-toward-finish-line-at-sc-general-assembly>

Jeremy Borden

Whether local governments get more funding, 4-year-old kindergarten programs are expanded and assorted Charleston-area items get backing are all expected to be decided during the next two weeks as South Carolina's General Assembly wraps up its budget and 2014 session.

Note: There are many points of agreement, including new funding for K-12 education pushed by Haley.

Note: Elements adopted from Haley's budget proposal include \$30 million to hire additional reading coaches in elementary schools and \$29 million to improve Internet and wireless capabilities in schools.

Associated Press: S.C. budget may boost jobs program for exiting Marines

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/26/budget-may-boost-jobs-program-exiting-marines/?partner=RSS>

Seanna Adcox

The state budget could provide \$200,000 to a program that aims to boost the Lowcountry's economy by helping exiting Marines find jobs locally.

Note: The program complements Operation Palmetto Employment, a statewide effort that Gov. Nikki Haley launched in February to help find a job for transitioning military service members of every branch, as well as veterans and spouses.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Pat McKinney releases new ad touting business agenda, raises \$109,000

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3469670/pat-mckinneys-new-ad-touts-business.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Republican lieutenant governor candidate Pat McKinney's second television ad features his pro-business agenda. The Charleston developer says in the ad that he wants a review of state regulations, cut taxes for small businesses and individuals, and "crack down on out-of-control lawsuits."

Note: McKinney's ad promotes ideas also pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley, who appointed him to the State Ports Authority board. She created a regulation review task force last year, and she touts success in tax cuts and tort reform.

The State: SC GOP superintendent candidates debate Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3468977/sc-gop-superintendent-candidates.html>

The Republican candidates for state superintendent of education will debate Tuesday on S.C. ETV from 7-8 p.m. The debate is the second of five that ETV and a group of S.C. newspapers — The State, The Greenville News, The Beaufort Gazette, The Island Packet of Hilton Head, The Sun News of Myrtle Beach, The Herald of Rock Hill and The Item of Sumter — are sponsoring.

The State: Richland elections officials, pollworkers say they're ready for June 10 primaries

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3468994/richland-elections-officials-pollworkers.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

The addition of precincts, equipment and pollworkers should add up to trouble-free June 10 primaries in Richland County, election officials say. "I feel good. I think it's going to run well," said Patrick Nolan, a retired USC professor who runs a Forest Acres precinct. He concurred with the assessment of fellow pollworkers

that they are well-prepared for voting in two weeks.

The State: Ray Moore raises \$22,450 in SC lieutenant governor bid

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3468917/ray-moore-raises-22450-in-sc-lieutenant.html#storylink=cpy>
Andrew Shain

Republican lieutenant governor candidate Ray Moore raised \$22,450 since April and has \$6,653 on hand ahead of the June 10 primary, according to report his campaign filed with the S.C. Ethics Commission on Monday. The Columbia pastor, one of four Republicans vying to succeed GOP Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, has raised \$33,275 since entering the race this year.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Lock out backdoor pay hike

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1002/140529464/1021/lock-out-backdoor-pay-hike>
Editorial

State senators recently approved themselves a pay hike disguised as an increase for in-district expenses. But they shouldn't count on getting it. Gov. Nikki Haley had unkind words for the salary increase, an indication that she almost certainly would veto the budget provision.

Times and Democrat: Graham looking strong despite S.C. tea party

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/graham-looking-strong-despite-s-c-tea-party/article_ade17262-e3c8-11e3-bdba-001a4bcf887a.html
Editorial

THE ISSUE: Sen. Graham and June primary; OUR OPINION: Control of and influence in Senate may help Graham win the day. The headlines following Tuesday's political primaries proclaimed the tea party movement has been diluted as mainstream Republicans such as Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell scored victories.

The State: Brad Hutto is only choice for Democratic nomination against US Sen Lindsey Graham

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3464008/editorial-brad-hutto-is-only-choice.html#storylink=cpy>
Editorial

AS POPULAR as it is these days to praise the virtues of outsiders, of political novices, the fact is that there is always a huge danger in electing someone who has never been active in their communities or engaged in public life, much less held public office.

Aiken Standard: Legislature makes right call on solar

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140527/AIK0201/140529667/1018/AIK02/legislature-makes-right-call-on-solar>
Editorial

South Carolina legislators made the right call last week by giving the greenlight to solar energy in our state. In a vote that some referred to as historic, the S.C. House of Representatives unanimously voted for a bill that would make it much easier for residents and businesses to invest in renewable solar energy.

Post and Courier: Keep federal highway fund solvent

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1002/140529465/1021/keep-federal-road-fund-solvent>
Editorial

South Carolina has serious highway funding problems - too many road needs, not enough money. But the federal government's road funding situation is nothing short of dire as its Highway Trust Fund approaches insolvency. A bipartisan solution is required, and soon.

Island Packet: Sales tax projects must meet objectives

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/25/3128441/sales-tax-projects-must-meet-objectives.html?sp=/99/342/1750/>
Editorial

Local governments and organizations have certainly caught on that a new funding source may come online and haven't been shy about vying for a piece of the proceeds. The University of South Carolina Beaufort wants a convention center. Port Royal wants to purchase its port. The city of Beaufort wants a parking garage.

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Senate racing to find road funding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/26/senate-racing-find-road-funding/9613313/>
Tim Smith

It's crunch time for road funding in South Carolina and a senator who wants the state to spend more says that only about 16 percent of the state's roads are in good condition. Sen. Ray Cleary, a Georgetown Republican and supporter of additional road funding, says with six days left in the legislative session, senators must show their constituents what they are willing to do about the state's crumbling infrastructure.

Post and Courier: A lot on line for College of Charleston as Legislature winds down

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140526/PC16/140529591/1177/a-lot-on-line-for-college-of-charleston-as-legislature-winds-down>

Diane Knich, Jeremy Borden

At the end of this year's legislative session, the College of Charleston could house the state's fourth comprehensive research university, have additional classroom space and still be dealing with the fallout around last summer's freshmen book choice.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley also will have the chance to weigh in with vetoes once the House and Senate come to an agreement.

Seneca Journal: Legislators to tackle texting ban

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/05/legislators-to-tackle-texting-ban/>

Greg Oliver

With less than two weeks remaining in the 2014 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, time is running out for legislators to pass some semblance of a statewide texting ban. However, local members of the State Legislature remain confident that something will get done prior to adjournment June 5.

South Carolina News:

SCRN: Rep. Tom Rice takes role in passage of law to help SC ports

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/05/26/rep-tom-rice-takes-role-in-passage-of-law-to-help-sc-ports/>

Ashley Byrd

South Carolina's 7th District Congressman Tom Rice is celebrating his first major success on Capitol Hill. The freshman congressman took a leadership role in the House and on a bicameral conference committee to help pass the federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Post and Courier: Medicaid enrollment grows in South Carolina, despite 'non-expansion' stance

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140526/PC16/140529589/1177/medicaid-enrollment-grows-in-south-carolina-despite-non-expansion-stance>

Lauren Sausser

Joyce Brown can't get a Medicaid card in South Carolina and, like many applicants recently denied coverage here, she may have qualified for the government's low-income health insurance program if conservative leaders had changed their minds about Obamacare or if the federal law was written differently.

Post and Courier: Boeing's footprint continues to grow in Lowcountry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140525/PC05/140529462/1010/aero-space-to-grow-boeing-cos-footprint-continues-to-expand-in-the-lowcountry>

Warren L. Wise

Boeing's startling decision in 2009 to build its newest jetliner in South Carolina was skewered by some as a huge miscalculation, especially among the rank-and-file in Washington state, home of the company's commercial aircraft division.

Rock Hill Herald: Military personnel show 'greatest love,' make greatest sacrifice

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/26/5997105/fort-mill-remembers-those-who.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

As thousands gathered in communities across the nation on Monday to pay tribute to those who have been killed while serving their country, retired U.S. Marine Col. Sean Mulcahy reminded a crowd in Fort Mill that

there's no greater love than to die for your friend.

The State: SC families honor sacrifices as they usher in summer

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3469031/sc-families-honor-sacrifices-as.html#storylink=cpy>

Bertram Rantin

Larry L. Melton Sr. and his family had the ideal ingredients for a Memorial Day lunchtime gathering Monday at Sesquicentennial State Park. "This is combat food," the retired Army command sergeant major said as he surveyed the bounty covering the red, white and blue-clad picnic tables in the outdoor shelter at the Northeast Richland park.

Rock Hill Herald: Catawbas hire NC tribe to build new SC bingo hall

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=uiiAqN3E

Don Worthington

When the Catawba Indians wanted to turn a former grocery store into a bingo hall, they did what any other business would do: They hired a contractor. The Catawbas, however, could have possibly signed a treaty. The work at a former Bi-Lo on Cherry Road is as much a nation-to-nation exchange - the Catawba Indian Nation and the Lumbee Indian Nation.

Local News:

Sun News: Myrtle Beach named top summer destination by TripAdvisor

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/27/4242907/myrtle-beach-named-top-summer.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Bryant

The accolades for Myrtle Beach have been rolling in as the busy summer tourism season approaches, with the destination accumulating nods for its affordability, family offerings and overall appeal. One of the most significant shoutouts came from travel website TripAdvisor, which declared Myrtle Beach the top destination this summer based on TripAdvisor search data for June 1-Aug. 31.

Post and Courier: Charleston teachers report positive climate in annual survey

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140524/PC16/140529599/1389/charleston-teachers-report-positive-climate-in-annual-survey>

Amanda Kerr

More teachers feel the climate of their school has been positive during the 2013-2014 school year compared with the previous year, according to a new survey released by the Charleston Teacher Alliance. A total of 72 percent of the teachers surveyed viewed their school as having a positive climate during the 2013-2014 school year, according to the survey.

The State: Columbia's slimmed-down budget faces big changes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3469000/columbias-slimmed-down-budget.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia's primary operating budget for next fiscal year has been whittled to \$128 million, but how City Council will divvy up the money remains in flux as council's first vote approaches in three weeks. City Hall staffers sliced \$6.3 million from their initial proposed \$133.5 million general fund budget for 2014-2015.

The State: Tax hike ballot at center of Lexington County Council race

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/26/3468985/tax-hike-ballot-at-center-of-lexington.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

One contest for Lexington County Council is an unofficial referendum on a proposed penny-on-the-dollar sales tax. Both challengers to incumbent Bill Banning in the June 10 Republican primary for the District 8 seat are making his support for the idea the key difference in the race.

National News:

New York Times: Technology Companies Are Pressing Congress to Bolster Privacy Protections

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/27/us/technology-firms-press-congress-to-tighten-privacy-law.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Elena Schneider

A law that allows the government to read email and cloud-stored data over six months old without a search

warrant is under attack from technology companies, trade associations and lobbying groups, which are pressing Congress to tighten privacy protections.

Reuters: Tea Party appears poised for big victories in Texas run-offs

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/27/us-usa-election-texas-idUSKBN0E70CP20140527>

Marice Richter

Texas conservatives are hoping to win two major Republican run-off elections on Tuesday, for lieutenant governor and attorney general, underscoring the Tea Party's enduring influence in the state.

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