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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Anderson Independent: Bill to reconsider Common Core receives approval from House
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/20/bill-to-reconsider-common-core-receives-approval/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

The state House gave final approval to a bill requiring South Carolina to reconsider the national Common Core State Standards. The bill now will head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk to be signed into law. Passed Tuesday afternoon by an 80-26 vote, the bill calls for a review of the standards on or before Jan. 1, 2015, and calls for new standards to be put in place by the 2015-16 school year.

Note: "Common Core was brought to South Carolina by a previous administration, and Gov. Haley has fought against it from day one and will continue to do so until it's no longer part of our school system's curriculum," said Doug Mayer, a spokesman for Haley.

Associated Press: SC law criminalizes lying about military service

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/20/5981777/sc-law-criminalizes-lying-about.html#storylink=cpy>

A new South Carolina law makes it a crime for someone to falsely claim military service for personal profit. The law signed by Gov. Nikki Haley makes the lie a misdemeanor, with the punishment depending on the lie. In a conviction, anyone pretending to be decorated war veteran could be sentenced to up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Greenville News: Fencing company to expand

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/21/fencing-company-expand/9363717/>

Woody White

A company that designs and manufactures fencing and railing products and the machines that make them says it is expanding operations in Greenville County. RPA Development LLC, a 25-year-old company, said it plans to invest \$2.8 million to upfit a 90,000-square-foot plant here and expects to add at least 43 jobs.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said that "it's always a great day in South Carolina and it's an even better day when one of our existing businesses announces their next expansion."

Area Development: RPA Development Expands Its Greenville County, South Carolina, Manufacturing Plant

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/5-20-2014/rpa-development-purchases-facility-greenville-county-south-carolina389343.shtml>

RPA Development LLC, a designer and manufacturer of fencing and railing products as well as the machines to produce them, has purchased and will upfit a 90,000-square-foot facility in Mauldin, South Carolina, to meet growing international and domestic demand for its products. The undisclosed investment is expected to add at least 43 new jobs.

Note: "It's always a great day in South Carolina and it's an even better day when one of our existing businesses announces their next expansion. We congratulate RPA Development on their investment and the 43 new jobs they are bringing to Greenville County," said Governor Nikki Haley.

Island Packet: Town officials encouraged Port of Port Royal bill has passed legislature

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/20/3120410/town-officials-encouraged-port.html#storylink=cpy>

Erin Moody

A bill to speed the sale of the Port of Port Royal is headed to the governor's desk after passing the S.C. House and Senate. It's a step in the right direction, said the bill's author, Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, who has worked closely with other legislators, including Rep. Shannon Erickson, R-Beaufort, on the legislation.

Note: Port Royal Mayor Sam Murray said he believes Gov. Nikki Haley will sign the bill quickly.

Times and Democrat: Faculty protesting as SCSU rescue plan faces House changes

http://thetandd.com/news/faculty-protesting-as-scsu-rescue-plan-faces-house-changes/article_5134a2be-e099-11e3-8473-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University's Faculty Senate says a plan to stabilize the institution's finances with the help of a five-member advisory board "could undermine the authority of our sitting president and our governing board," and threaten the university's accreditation.

Coleton Today: State legislation touches off massive shakeup on school board

http://www.colletontoday.com/news/state-legislation-touches-off-massive-shakeup-on-school-board/article_fa3a15ea-e05a-11e3-b37b-0019bb2963f4.html

Drew Tripp

A local senator's voting district reapportionment legislation means a monstrous shakeup to the structure of Colleton County's Board of Education is on the horizon.

Note: Governor Nikki Haley on Friday signed into law a bill authored by Senator Clementa Pinckney (D-Ridgeland) calling for the lines of Colleton County's seven single-member school board voting districts to be redrawn according to adjusted population statistics from the 2010 census.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Senate's timing on pay hike not good

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Senate-s-timing-on-pay-hike-not-good/8/154/25623>

Editorial

Agreed, the timing might not be the best when it comes to seeking a pay increase, especially when the ones seeking the increase have such a strong say in the matter.

Note: Following the vote, Gov. Nikki Haley was quick to criticize her fellow lawmakers: "In a time where we should be focused on real budget priorities -- things like education, roads and public safety -- it makes zero sense to me that the Senate just voted themselves a pay raise," she wrote on her Facebook page.

Post and Courier: Legislative meddling on 'Fun Home' damages state's image

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140521/PC1002/140529894/1021/>

Editorial

In 2002 I was a faculty member at UNC-Chapel Hill when "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations" was chosen for its common reading program. In the wake of 9/11, one obvious goal was to create a better opportunity to understand an unfamiliar culture than could be gained from the media's focus on its extreme elements.

Rock Hill Herald: Senators meddling in college curricula

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/20/5982093/senators-meddling-in-college-curricula.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

The so-called compromise regarding budget cuts for two state colleges that assigned books dealing with homosexuality to incoming freshmen hardly meets the definition of compromise. It's just punishment from a different blunt instrument.

The State: Livingston an easy choice for SC adjutant general

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/20/3457118/editorial-livingston-an-easy-choice.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

THE MILITARY is probably the closest thing we have in this nation to a meritocracy, a place where you succeed or fail based more certainly on what you know than who you know. It's not a perfect meritocracy — building the right relationships is essential — but the incentive to base promotions on ability is profound, because if leaders are incompetent, people die.

Post and Courier: CSOL: An asset to protect

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140521/PC1002/140529896/1021/csol-an-asset-to-protect>

Editorial

Over the past 10 years, the Charleston School of Law has won respect from the local community and solid

reviews from the legal community statewide. It has produced lawyers committed to public service, and its presence has added to the energy and appeal of the upper King Street area.

Times and Democrat: Consolidation is likely, but should be fully discussed

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/consolidation-is-likely-but-should-be-fully-discussed/article_78b1b282-e0a3-11e3-b608-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Orangeburg County school districts. OUR OPINION: Senators' proposal on consolidation is logical but deserves full airing before becoming law. In more than a decade-and-a-half since Orangeburg County's three school districts were born of a consolidation from eight, there has been little discussion of a further merger. The situation has changed.

Spartanburg Herald Journal (Guest Column): 529 college savings plan is definitely worth celebrating

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140520/ARTICLES/140529957>

Curtis Loftis

On May 29, South Carolina will join college savings programs all over the country to celebrate 529 Day, a day set aside to enhance awareness of college savings plans designated as 529 plans. A 529 plan is an investment account that helps investors save for college, much like a 401(k) account helps investors save for retirement.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Supreme Court set to hear Harrell case, Attorney General Alan Wilson asks for reversal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140520/PC1603/140529949/1177/sc-supreme-court-set-to-hear-harrell-case-attorney-general-alan-wilson-asks-for-reversal>

Jeremy Borden

The South Carolina Supreme Court set a date Tuesday to hear the ethics-related case against House Speaker Bobby Harrell, as the state's attorney general released documents that blasted a lower court decision and asked the state's highest court to reverse it.

The State: SC Supreme Court sets June 24 to hear historic Harrell-Wilson case

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/20/3456535/attorney-general-asks-sc-supreme.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Attorney General Alan Wilson on Tuesday morning requested the S.C. Supreme Court overturn a circuit court judge's decision ordering him to halt an ongoing criminal investigation of House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

Associated Press: Voters may decide whether to appoint adj. general

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

The Senate has approved asking voters whether the commander of South Carolina's Army and Air National Guard should be appointed. Senators voted 39-0 on Tuesday to put the constitutional question on November's ballot. Under the proposed amendment, the governor would appoint the adjutant general beginning in January 2019.

Associated Press: SC Senate tacks on seawall exemption to resolution

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kq0W9npc

Andrew Coffman Smith

The South Carolina Senate made it clear Tuesday that it is firm about giving the private Georgetown County community of Debordieu just three years to replace its aging barrier at the water's edge - a move that would be a revision to the state's 26-year-old ban on new seawalls.

The State: Senate intensifies push to help affluent SC seaside community

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/20/3457390/senate-intensifies-push-to-help.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

The state Senate has intensified efforts to help an exclusive, beach community rebuild a seawall that would protect high-end homes from rising ocean levels, even as scientists warn about the increasing danger of living too close to the sea.

Associated Press: Ban of powdered alcohol advancing in SC Senate

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

Senators are advancing a measure banning powdered alcohol in South Carolina. The Senate Judiciary Committee sent the bill to the floor on Tuesday. The committee also tacked the proposal to two other bills it advanced that deal with alcohol sales.

S.C. Agency News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina DSS director to continue testimony before Senate panel

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140520/PC1603/140529905/1005/dss-director-to-continue-testimony-before-senate-panel>

Cynthia Roldan

Testimony by the director of the state Department of Social Services continues Wednesday at 9 a.m., as a Senate panel continues its investigation into the agency's practices. DSS Director Lillian Koller will go before the Senate's DSS Oversight Committee for a second time since returning from a medical leave that kept her from testifying for months.

The State: Richland County mom faces homicide charge in death of her son

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/20/3456090/charges-upgraded-to-homicide-in.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Charges against a 28-year-old Columbia mother charged earlier in connection with her baby's death for allegedly not attaching a heart monitor to the child have been upgraded to homicide by child abuse/neglect, the Richland County Sheriff's Department said.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: New federal water bill good news for both SC ports

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HvF1EATI

Bruce Smith

The multimillion-dollar deepening of Charleston Harbor as well projects at smaller ports like Georgetown will be helped by a federal water resources bill that is next up for a vote in the Senate, U.S. Rep. Tom Rice said Tuesday.

Anderson Independent: New industry, jobs headed for Oconee County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/20/new-industry-jobs-headed-for-oconee-county/?partner=RSS>

Ray Chandler

A new industry bringing 77 skilled jobs soon will set up shop in Oconee County. Plastic Products Co., Inc. will establish a manufacturing facility in a 40,000-square-foot building off Blue Ridge Boulevard in Seneca. The Oconee County Council on Tuesday unanimously approved on third reading a fee-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement as an incentive for the company to locate in the county.

Rock Hill Herald: Winthrop president: Campus-wide salary study coming

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/20/5982310/winthrop-president-campus-wide.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Winthrop University employees will soon be part of a salary study that could result in pay raises for some faculty and staff members. Winthrop President Jamie Comstock Williamson sent an email to all campus employees Monday detailing the upcoming "salary equity study." The email came after she met with elected faculty and staff representatives on May 13 to discuss pay issues.

Local News:

Greenville News: Road tax fight may turn to voters

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/05/21/road-tax-fight-may-turn-voters/9362795/>

Rudolph Bell

So far, the political battle over imposing a 1 percent sales tax in Greenville County for road improvements has been a matter of lobbying County Council, which must authorize a referendum on the question before voters can weigh in at the ballot box.

Greenville News: Greenville advances tax hike that will add fire station

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/20/city-tax-hike-advances/9314195/>

Anna Lee

It took less than 10 minutes Monday night to tentatively approve the city of Greenville's first property tax hike in 20 years. City Council unanimously approved a four-mill tax increase, raising the millage rate from 85.4 mills to 89.4 mills. Taxpayers would pay \$24 more a year, or \$536.40, on a \$150,000 owner-occupied home.

Greenville News: Greenville Health System expanding

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/health/2014/05/20/greenville-health-system-oks-two-major-projects/9328671/>

Liv Osby

Greenville Health System is about to embark on a \$40 million project to develop "comprehensive, multi-specialty ambulatory care centers" in Anderson and Spartanburg counties. The move, approved by trustees Tuesday, is part of the hospital's strategy to expand ambulatory services in its primary market, which is the Upstate.

National News:

Washington Post: This memo shows that the VA knew of records manipulation in 2010

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/05/20/this-memo-shows-that-the-va-knew-of-records-manipulation-in-2010/>

Josh Hicks

Robert Petzel resigned last week as the top health official for the Department of Veterans Affairs, just one day after testifying before a Senate committee that he knew VA health clinics were using inappropriate scheduling practices as early as 2010.

Associated Press: McConnell Defeats Tea Party Challenger Bevin

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/mcconnell-defeats-tea-party-challenger-bevin>

Bruce Schreiner

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has defeated millionaire businessman Matt Bevin in an expensive and bruising primary election in Kentucky. He'll face Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes in the fall as he pursues his sixth term. McConnell has been one of President Barack Obama's fiercest critics, but Bevin accused the longtime senator of not being conservative enough.

Brian Symmes

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