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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, May 29, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: Haley requests state funds for Winter Storm Pax recovery costs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140529/AIK0101/140529281/1004/haley-requests-state-funds-for-winter-storm-pax-recovery-costs>

Maayan Schechter

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has requested the legislature vote to appropriate a little more than \$16 million of additional nonrecurring funds to counties and state agencies affected by February's Winter Storm Pax. The storm dropped more than an inch of ice on several counties, including Aiken, and caused thousands of widespread, prolonged power outages.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Haley signs bill forgiving school makeup day

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140528/ARTICLES/140529701/1083/ARTICLES?Title=-Haley-signs-bill-forgiving-school-make-up-day->

Zach Fox

The school year will come to an end a day early for students in Spartanburg County because of a state bill forgiving an extra day of classes. The last day for Spartanburg County students is now Friday thanks to the bill passed by the House and the Senate, and signed by Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday.

WCSC: Haley waives make-up days for DD2, Berkeley students

<http://www.live5news.com/story/25634955/haley-waives-make-up-days-for-dd2-berkeley-students>

Patrick Phillips

A bill signed by Gov. Nikki Haley means the school year for students in Dorchester and Berkeley Counties will end on Friday. Haley signed legislation waiving two planned make-up days scheduled on Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3.

New York Times: South Carolina's Ban on Election Day Liquor Sales May Go the Way of Prohibition

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/29/us/south-carolinas-ban-on-election-day-liquor-sales-may-go-the-way-of-prohibition.html>

Richard Fausset

Tony Suh, the owner of Harvard's Wine and Beverage here, does not know why South Carolina's government will not let him sell liquor on statewide election days. He figures it is just one of the many quirks of doing business in this culturally conservative state, in league with his customers' habit of parking their cars on the far side of the parking lot to avoid the attention of judgmental neighbors.

Note: If the bill is signed by the Republican governor, Nikki R. Haley, South Carolina will join six other states that have rescinded similar laws since 2008, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, an industry group.

Greenville News: Craft beer bill goes to Haley

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/28/craft-beer-bill-heads-gov-haley/9685289/>

Eric Connor

Changes in South Carolina's beer laws that will loosen restrictions on craft brewers passed through the state Legislature on Wednesday, a crucial step in economic developers' efforts to attract a West Coast brewery's multimillion-dollar investment. It now goes to Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature.

Post and Courier: Senate, House pass bill to boost South Carolina's craft beer industry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140528/PC16/140529286/1005/senate-house-pass-bill-to-boost-south-carolinas-craft-beer-industry>

Glenn Smith, Jeremy Borden

State lawmakers approved a virtual sea change in South Carolina's beer laws Wednesday, lifting restrictions to help craft breweries grow and attract outside beermakers with the potential to invest millions and hire hundreds.

Note: The bill now heads to Gov. Nikki Haley for her consideration, and supporters predict she will quickly sign the measure into law.

Associated Press: Legislature approves bill meant to grow breweries

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Hd8RFPPe

The Legislature has passed a bill designed to grow South Carolina's craft brewery business and make the state a destination for beer aficionados. It also allows them to operate a restaurant onsite and get a permit to sell other producers' beer and wine. The bill heads to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

S.C. Political News:

WBTW: Fact Check (Video): New ad in SC governor's slams Haley's DSS record

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25636834/fact-check-new-ad-in-sc-governors-slams-haleys-dss-record>

Robert Kittle

A new ad by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen slams Gov. Nikki Haley and the Department of Social Services because of recent cases of children who died after DSS got involved with their families.

Note: But her campaign points out the claim that she is "covering up her administration's failures" comes from an article in The Free Times, which it claims is not a credible source.

Note: Haley campaign spokesman Rob Godfrey says, "This ad wins the academy award for irony. Vince Sheheen says he's not playing politics with children's lives, but that's exactly what he's doing with this ad."

Times and Democrat: Lieutenant governor's race: Rep. Sellers says more money needs to be focused on elderly

http://thetandd.com/news/lieutenant-governor-s-race-rep-sellers-says-more-money-needs/article_0339ff3a-e6bd-11e3-a8e2-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

Just short of his 30th birthday, Rep. Bakari Sellers says he knows the needs of seniors in South Carolina. As the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, Sellers said he would bring tax relief for those who provide in-home care for the elderly.

Island Packet: Lt. governor candidate McMaster speaks to Sun City residents

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473515/lt-governor-candidate-mcmaster.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

Former S.C. Attorney General Henry McMaster hopes to be an advocate for economic development and small businesses, in addition to championing causes for senior citizens, if he is elected lieutenant governor, he told a group of Sun City Hilton Head residents Wednesday.

Associated Press: Democrats vying to challenge Scott set to debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=D1kMjL7

Meg Kinnard

Some of the Democratic candidates vying for the chance to challenge U.S. Sen. Tim Scott are set to debate. Joyce Dickerson and Harry Pavilack are scheduled to participate Thursday in a debate sponsored by South Carolina Educational Television and several of the state's newspapers.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Teacher pay, greater recruitment need stronger focus

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140529/AIK02/140529311/1018/AIK02/editorial-teacher-pay-greater-recruitment-need-stronger-focus>

Editorial

Promoting the recruitment and retention of quality teachers should be a top priority for our state's next superintendent of education. It's a message repeated during debates and an idea that's been mentioned by most of the candidates running for office.

Post and Courier: A national disgrace confirmed

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140529/PC1002/140529265/1021>

Editorial

The scandal in veterans' health care has centered around facilities in the Phoenix area, where more than 40 patients are alleged to have died as a result of scheduling delays. Unfortunately, an interim report issued Wednesday by the inspector general of the Department of Veterans Affairs made the point that the VA's problems are nationwide in scope.

Times and Democrat: Keep the faith: 'Congress can, will do better'

http://thetandd.com/news/keep-the-faith-congress-can-will-do-better/article_298a2eec-e6a6-11e3-a6c3-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Washington gridlock. OUR OPINION: Whether it's Graham or Hutto or another, pragmatism a key ingredient in leadership. In its recent endorsements of the U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate and Orangeburg state Sen. Brad Hutto for the Democratic nomination for the same seat, The State newspaper of Columbia made a key point about the state of American politics.

Aiken Standard (Guest Column): GOP should continue to support school choice

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140529/AIK02/140529307/1018/AIK02/column-gop-should-continue-to-support-school-choice>

Mich Zais

Four years ago, I was honored to earn the nomination of the South Carolina Republican Party for the Office of State Superintendent of Education. Republicans had many choices in 2010, and they have another large field of candidates to choose from this year.

The State: Belton is SC Democrats' best choice for education superintendent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473025/editorial-belton-is-sc-democrats.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

MONTRIO Belton talks about not being sure the state needs to be spending more on the public schools, and he talks about the need to give parents more options about their children's education, and he speaks in dramatic terms about the cost of those schools that are failing to provide children with an adequate education.

Island Packet: State must do more to provide lifeguards

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/28/3133023/state-must-do-more-to-provide.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

It's good news that South Carolina's most popular state park on Hunting Island may soon be less dangerous. The S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and Beaufort County have agreed to split the cost of nine lifeguards to work three lifeguard stations this coming summer.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC sex education bill blocked in Senate committee

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3UY9CY2s

Andrew Coffman Smith

A state senator blocked a bill on Wednesday that would have required South Carolina schools to teach medically accurate information in sex education and inform parents what is being taught. The measure seeking to update the state's 26-year-old sex education curriculum passed the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday by a 9-2 vote, but Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville, placed a procedural hold on its advancement to the Senate floor.

The State: Sex-ed update close to dead after GOP senator's move

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473379/sex-ed-update-close-to-dead-after.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Bills that would update the state's 26-year-old sex education law and require cursive to be taught in elementary schools each received OKs from a Senate Education Committee by 9-2 votes Wednesday. But both proposals likely are dead for this session, each blocked by a single state senator.

WLTX: Senators Put Off Debate on Roads Bill

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/05/28/senators-put-off-debate-on-roads-bill/9687651/>

Jennifer Bellamy

With only a few legislative days left in the session state senators have put off tackling the issue of roads in our state. Wednesday, they decided not to take up a House bill that would put more money toward building and maintaining roads and bridges.

Post and Courier: Sen. Larry Grooms: Halt of university bill a 'declaration of war on Charleston'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140528/PC1603/140529269/1177>

Jeremy Borden

Two of the General Assembly's most powerful leaders put the brakes on a bill Wednesday that would have established the Charleston region's first comprehensive research university, setting up a widely-watched clash of the Legislature's most powerful members in the session's last days.

The State: SC elections oversight begins in fall, as reform passes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473367/sc-elections-oversight-begins.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Starting this fall, state elections officials will check vote totals in all 46 counties as part of the biggest election reform measure passed in a decade. Disagreements are brewing, meanwhile, among Richland County legislators about whether to retain two long-time election board members when the offices join once again as a result of the new measure.

The State: SC brewery sales expanded, Election Day alcohol sales OK'd

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473512/sc-brewery-sales-expanded-election.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina drinkers are closer to being able to buy more beer at breweries and purchase liquor on Election Day, but they likely will not be able to get powdered alcohol for at least a year. The General Assembly approved a bill Wednesday expanding brewery sales and allowing Election Day alcohol sales.

The State: SC texting ban racing against end-of-session deadline

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473508/sc-texting-ban-racing-against.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers are getting closer to banning texting while driving statewide. But they face a deadline – Thursday of next week – if they are going to accomplish that goal. The problem? Senators and state representatives disagree on what a ban should look like.

Post and Courier: SC Legislature working on tax break for folks who rent out their beach homes

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140528/PC16/140529288/1005/sc-tax-break-eyed-for-those-who-rent-out-their-homes-part-of-the-year>

David Slade

South Carolina lawmakers appear likely to approve a tax break benefitting the owners of about 470 homes, primarily on barrier islands, who rent out their residences more than two weeks each year. Supporters say the change is warranted because some people need to rent their homes in order to afford soaring hurricane and flood insurance costs.

The State: Senators side with SC school nurses on seizure-drug dilemma

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/28/3473388/senators-side-with-sc-school-nurses.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

School nurses banded together to convince a state Senate panel Wednesday to put the brakes on an effort to authorize the nurses to administer a seizure drug in a manner that is not approved by health regulators.

S.C. Agency News:

Post and Courier: More lawmakers call for the resignation of DSS chief Koller

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140528/PC1603/140529268/1177>

Cynthia Roldan

Two Senators have joined the ranks of several lawmakers calling for the resignation of the Department of Social Services director. Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, said Wednesday he was joining the members of the Senate's DSS Oversight Committee in calling for the resignation of DSS Director Lillian Koller. And Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson, R-Columbia, added he too called on Koller to resign last

month.

Associated Press: Columbia parents get life in prison in son's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=XFjOm3AO

A Columbia mother and father have been sentenced to life in prison for beating their 4-year-old son to death. A Richland County jury deliberated just over an hour Wednesday before finding 28-year-old Robert Guinyard Sr. and 25-year-old Courtney Thompson guilty of homicide by child abuse.

Associated Press: Insurance Department sets coastal property hearing

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

With the 2014 hurricane season starting this weekend, the S.C. Department of Insurance is holding its annual information session and public hearing for coastal property owners.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville County GOP opposes tax hike for roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/29/county-gop-opposes-tax-hike-roads/9706987/>

Rudolph Bell

The Greenville County Republican Party has taken a position against a proposed 1 percent sales tax to pay for road improvements in the county. A resolution adopted by the party's executive committee says that adding 1 percent to the state's existing 6 percent sales tax would only encourage the underfunding of roads on the part of state lawmakers.

Index-Journal: City applies brakes to 'stop-and-identify'

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/City-applies-brakes-to--stop-and-identify-/4/40/25780>

Chris Trainor

The City of Greenwood appears to be putting the brakes on a controversial ordinance that has been referred to as "stop-and-identify." Greenwood City Council passed first reading on the stop-and-identify ordinance at its May 19 meeting. The vote on first reading was 5-2, with longtime councilwomen Betty Boles and Linda Edwards dissenting.

Greenville News: More pay cash for Upstate homes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/29/pay-cash-upstate-homes/9707515/>

Angelia Davis

The share of all-cash home sales in the Upstate has risen while sales of foreclosures have declined. According to RealtyTrac, an online source for housing data, 52 percent of all homes sold in the Greenville-Mauldin-Easley metropolitan area and statewide were all-cash purchases.

National News:

Reuters: Veterans health probe confirms cover-up of care delays

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/28/us-usa-veterans-investigation-idUSKBN0E824E20140528>

David Lawder, Roberta Rampton

Calls for U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign grew louder on Wednesday as the agency's inspector general confirmed "systemic" and widespread VA scheduling abuses to cover up long wait times for veterans' healthcare.

New York Times: Severe Report Finds V.A. Hid Waiting Lists at Hospitals

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/29/us/va-report-confirms-improper-waiting-lists-at-phoenix-center.html?hpw&rref=us&_r=2&assetType=nyt_now

Richard A. Oppel Jr. Michael Shear

In the first confirmation that Department of Veterans Affairs administrators manipulated medical waiting lists at one and possibly more hospitals, the department's inspector general reported on Wednesday that 1,700 patients at the veterans medical center in Phoenix were not placed on the official waiting list for doctors' appointments and may never have received care.

Associated Press: House Democrats' campaign arm reserves \$44M in ads

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/house-democrats-campaign-arm-reserves-44m-ads>

Philip Elliott

House Democrats are ready to empty their deep pockets for television ads as they continue an uphill climb to oust Republicans from their majority. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on Thursday began asking television stations in 36 key districts to set aside broadcast and cable advertising time for the fall's campaign blitz.

Brian Symmes

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