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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 28, 2014

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 28, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**WCIV:** Voters asked whether to appoint adjutant general

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/25627521/voters-asked-whether-to-appoint-adjutant-general>

South Carolina's voters will decide in November whether the governor should appoint the state's top military officer. The House agreed Tuesday to the Senate's changes to a measure that puts the constitutional question on the ballot. If voters approve, the governor would appoint the adjutant general beginning in January 2019.

**Note:** "That South Carolina will now treat the head of our National Guard the same as every other state in the nation is so important, and is a further leap forward in our efforts to bring our state government into the 21st century," she said. "What happened today is another huge win for the people of South Carolina."

**Associated Press:** Voters asked whether to appoint adjutant general

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DG6WPgXO](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DG6WPgXO)

South Carolina's voters will decide in November whether the governor should appoint the state's top military officer. The House agreed Tuesday to the Senate's changes to a measure that puts the constitutional question on the ballot.

**Note:** That bill goes to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican governor supports the change, saying it helps bring state government into the 21st century.

**WMBF:** Gov. Haley signs State Fossil Bill

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/25623159/gov-haley-signs-state-fossil-bill>

Patrick Phillips

It's official: South Carolina now has a State Fossil. Gov. Nikki Haley signed House Bill 4482, naming the Columbian Mammoth as the official state fossil, as a third grader who campaigned for the mammoth looked on. In her letter to Haley, McConnell said the first fossils discovered in North Carolina, those of a mammoth, were found by slaves in South Carolina in 1725.

**Times and Democrat:** Haley vetoes Sellers' bill for school buildings in Denmark-Olar district

[http://thetandd.com/news/haley-vetoes-sellers-bill-for-school-buildings-in-denmark-olar/article\\_7d805094-e610-11e3-a7ed-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thetandd.com/news/haley-vetoes-sellers-bill-for-school-buildings-in-denmark-olar/article_7d805094-e610-11e3-a7ed-0019bb2963f4.html)

Gene Crider

A bill Rep. Bakari Sellers hoped would allow the construction of new school facilities in Bamberg School District Two has been vetoed, with the governor saying voters should be given a voice on how tax money is spent.

**Note:** "Having attended public schools in her hometown of Bamberg, Gov. Haley understands their unique set of challenges as well as anyone in the state," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said.

**Note:** "While the governor supports new and innovative ways to fund school infrastructure needs, Rep. Seller's bill goes too far and lets the school district raise taxes as high as they want, whenever they want. That's wrong," he said.

**The State:** Angry citizens demand action to curb violence in Myrtle Beach

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3471276/angry-citizens-demand-action-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya Prabhu

It was standing-room only in Myrtle Beach City Council chambers Tuesday afternoon as hundreds gathered to express their anger regarding the high level of crime in the city during Memorial Day weekend.

**Note:** Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said he, Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes and city and county staff plan to meet with Gov. Nikki Haley on Friday to discuss ways to make the weekend safer.

**Aiken Standard:** Audit: NNSA, contractor can't control MOX costs

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140528/AIK0101/140529410/1004/audit-nnsa-contractor-can-t-control-mox-costs>

Derrek Asberry

An audit dated May 22 reported both the National Nuclear Security Administration and the MOX contractor have been "largely unsuccessful" in controlling the costs and construction schedule of the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

**Aiken Standard:** County agencies push for salary increases

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140528/AIK0101/140529408/0/SEARCH&slid=1>

Derrek Asberry

Aiken County Sheriff Michael Hunt represented one of several emergency agencies who went up to bat for salary increases during a County Council budget work session on Tuesday evening.

Note: Killian said he cannot verify, but has heard that Gov. Nikki Haley may be announcing soon that the state will pick up the tab for the remaining amounts that FEMA doesn't cover.

### **S.C. Political News:**

**Associated Press:** Atwater and Spearman lead in schools chief race

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8sGhno6x](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8sGhno6x)

Andrew Coffman Smith

In the Republican race to be South Carolina's next superintendent of education, Sally Atwater has out-fundraised the seven other candidates. However in the last 15 days of the primary race, Molly Spearman leads in individual contributions and cash on hand.

**The State:** SC Democrats vying for U.S. Senate to debate Thursday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3471022/sc-democrats-vying-for-us-senate.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Two of the three Democrats running for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Tim Scott will debate Thursday on ETV. Richland County Councilwoman Joyce Dickerson and Myrtle Beach attorney Harry Pavilack will debate from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Greenville News:** Greenville Democrats take sides in primary for U.S. Senate seat

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/greenville-democrats-take-sides-primary-us-senate-seat/9653423/>

Rudolph Bell

Greenville Democrats have endorsed state Sen. Brad Hutto as the party's nominee for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Lindsey Graham – and concluded that Hutto's opponent in the June 10 primary, Jay Stamper, is "unfit" to run under the party's banner.

**The State:** Common Core, evolution vs. creationism divide GOP candidates for S.C. education superintendent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3471239/common-core-evolution-vs-creationism.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Eight Republicans running for state superintendent of education faced off Tuesday in an ETV debate — staking out their positions on a range of issues from Common Core education standards and teacher evaluations to whether intelligent design should be taught in the state's science classrooms.

**The State:** McKinney still holds money lead in SC lieutenant governor's race

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3471024/mckinney-still-holds-money-lead.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Former state attorney general Henry McMaster has out-raised his Republican opponents for lieutenant governor since April, but Charleston developer Pat McKinney continues to have the most cash on hand.

**Anderson Independent:** State House District 5 candidates push jobs, education, roads

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/27/state-house-district-5-candidates-push-jobs/?partner=RSS>

Vince Jackson

Three candidates for the state House District 5 seat spoke a forum Tuesday night about jobs, education and

roads — issues they all agreed are paramount to voters. The candidates are running for the seat previously held by Rep. Phil Owens representing the Easley and Liberty areas.

### **Opinion / Editorial Roundup:**

**Post and Courier:** Ramp up rural education

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140528/PC1002/140529354/1021/ramp-up-rural-education>

Editorial

No one loves to talk about his elementary school years more than someone who started out in a tiny, rural school and went on to college and a successful career. The rustic rooms and shared books become elements of a romantic memory. But for every success story, there are far more stories without happy educational endings.

**Note:** Fortunately, the problem is getting some much-needed attention in Columbia. Gov. Nikki Haley has requested the Legislature approve \$177 million for rural schools - primarily for improving student literacy and providing access to technology.

**The State:** Ethics negotiators need to believe in ... ethics

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470342/ethics-negotiators-need-to-believe.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

There's not a lot of hope at this point that the Legislature is going to pass an ethics bill that does the things it needs to do — primarily putting someone other than legislators in charge of conducting routine investigations of legislators' compliance with the law, and reinstating the status quo ante by making it absolutely clear that the attorney general has complete discretion to investigate and prosecute legislators.

**The State:** Molly Spearman is best choice among Republicans for SC education superintendent

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470783/editorial-molly-spearman-is-best.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

THE SUPERINTENDENT of education has to run the Department of Education, a huge state agency that handles nearly half the state budget. This is a job that requires significant administrative experience and knowledge about education.

### **Legislative Session News:**

**The State:** Speaker Harrell beefs up legal team; AG Wilson asks SC Supreme Court to keep Harrell investigation matters sealed

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3470176/ag-wilson-asks-sc-supreme-court.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Although a S.C. Supreme Court hearing to decide whether Attorney General Alan Wilson can investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell is four weeks off, the two powerful politicians are already battling it out in pre-hearing legal filings. Harrell has also hired three of the state's most experienced appeals lawyers for his legal team.

**Associated Press:** SC Republicans tackle Common Core in debate

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PjqttYMW](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PjqttYMW)

Andrew Coffman Smith

South Carolina's eight candidates for superintendent of education squared off in a televised debate Tuesday on ETV over what should replace Common Core and how to simplify the funding formula for schools.

**Note:** Special needs teacher Sally Atwater said she opposes raising taxes and supports Gov. Nikki Haley's education reform package for a fairer education formula.

**Greenville News:** Brewers, wholesalers reach beer law compromise

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/battle-brewing-today-craft-beer-bill/9623327/>

Eric Connor

Craft brewers and wholesalers have reached a compromise on the "Stone Bill" that will loosen South Carolina's beer restrictions, with a vote in the state Legislature that advocates say will pass smoothly.

**Post and Courier:** South Carolina lawmakers: Craft beer bill compromise reached

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1603/140529388/1031/south-carolina-lawmakers-craft-beer-bill-compromise-reached>

Glenn Smith, Jeremy Borden

A compromise on a bill that could mean a spending and infrastructure bonanza for craft breweries in South Carolina is expected to pass this year and could bring a major California-based craft brewer to the state, lawmakers said Tuesday.

**Greenville News:** S.C. plan to ban powdered alcohol fails

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/27/sc-plan-ban-powdered-alcohol-fails/9630643/>

Tim Smith

A proposal to ban powdered alcohol in the state failed in the Senate today despite pleas from a senator that the substance could present a grave threat to children. Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he wants the ban until the state can prepare regulations about how powdered alcohol should be distributed.

**Seneca Journal:** Local legislators pessimistic about funding highway improvements

<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/05/local-legislators-pessimistic-about-funding-highway-improvements/>

Greg Oliver

It appears that funding improvements for the state's infrastructure and highway system won't take place for at least another year. Local members of the South Carolina General Assembly were pessimistic when asked about the odds of something happening in that area prior to the June 5 adjournment of the 2014 session. "We're just out of time," said State Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens.

### **S.C. Agency News:**

**Post and Courier:** DSS report shows caseloads exceed director's estimates and recommended maximums

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC1603/140529345/1005/dss-xy-xy-yx-xy-xy-xy-xy-xy-xy-xy-y>

Cynthia Roldan

Nearly a third of state Department of Social Service workers shoulder larger than recommended caseloads and many say they are working off the clock to try to prevent children from falling prey to neglect and abuse. A review of DSS internal documents obtained by The Post and Courier reveals 29 percent of workers had 16 cases or more, as of May 18.

**Associated Press:** 3 Democrats call for House vote on SC DSS director

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Xhg8xEnc](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Xhg8xEnc)

Three Democrats want the South Carolina House to take a no-confidence vote in the Department of Social Services' director. The Richland County Democrats introduced a resolution Tuesday urging Gov. Nikki Haley to fire director Lillian Koller. The Republican governor has repeatedly backed Koller despite several calls for her ousting.

**WLTX:** Lawmakers Call for No Confidence Vote On DSS Director

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/05/27/lawmakers-call-for-no-confidence-vote-on-dss-director/9643539/>

Jennifer Bellamy

More lawmakers have joined the call asking Governor Nikki Haley to fire Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller. Lawmakers announced plans to introduce a no confidence resolution in the House. "We've seen Haley's appointee struggle to answer the most basic questions.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** NRC holding public meeting on Robinson Nuclear

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iSFbmMqE](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iSFbmMqE)

Federal regulators are holding a public meeting to discuss activity at one of South Carolina's nuclear plants. Officials from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission are holding an open house at the Hartsville Public Library on Wednesday.

### **Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** Charleston County school board tells district to cut \$6 million from 2014-2015 school budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140527/PC16/140529350/1006/>

Amanda Kerr

The Charleston County School District needs to close a \$6 million funding gap in its budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Those were the school board's instructions during a meeting on Monday where the board approved the first reading of the next fiscal year's budget which begins July 1.

**The State:** Lexington County tax referendum gets initial OK

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/27/3471033/lexington-county-tax-referendum.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

The first step was taken Tuesday for a Nov. 4 referendum on a penny-on-the-dollar sales tax increase for road improvements and other projects in Lexington County. It came after County Council ruled out a small property tax hike in settling on a \$113 million spending plan for the year starting July 1.

**Anderson Independent:** Proposed Seneca budget includes no tax increases, no raises for city workers

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/28/proposed-seneca-budget-includes-no-tax-increases-n/?partner=RSS>

Ray Chandler

Seneca's proposed fiscal year 2014-15 budget does not include a tax increase, but also does not offer pay raises for city employees. Mayor Dan Alexander reminded City Council members Tuesday that their majority vote can change the budget any number of ways, but that his priority in proposing it was to avoid any increases in taxes or fees.

**Anderson Independent:** Anderson 1 budget includes technology staff increases

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/27/anderson-1-budget-includes-technology-staff/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

The Anderson School District 1 board unanimously approved an unbalanced budget of nearly \$60.7 million that includes money for reading coaches and increases in technology staff. The budget for the Williamston-based district is subject to final approval by the Anderson County Board of Education.

## **National News:**

**Bloomberg:** Obama Seeks Foreign Policy Reset to Counter His Critics

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-28/obama-seeks-foreign-policy-reset-to-counter-his-critics.html>

Terry Atlas

For President Barack Obama, it's time for a foreign policy reset. Obama plans to use his commencement address today at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, to present a foreign-policy vision that balances the nation's commitments against the limits of American military, economic and political power.

**CNBC:** Seven in 10 people say Obamacare had bad or zero impact on US

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101707786>

Dan Managan

The White House in the past month has been crowing about Obamacare's success, but the public...uhhh, not so much. More than 7 out of every 10 Americans says Obamacare has had a mostly negative effect overall on the country, or thinks the landmark health-care reform law has not had much of an impact, a new Bankrate.com survey released Wednesday found.

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