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To:
Date: 5/8/2014 8:00:50 AM
Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, May 8, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WSAV: Children's Mental Health Week in South Carolina

<http://www.wsav.com/story/25459683/childrens-mental-health-week-in-south-carolina>

Tina Tyus Shaw

Special attention is being paid this week to Children's Mental Health in South Carolina. Governor Nikki Haley along with the Federation of Families of South Carolina, and the Joint Council on Children and Adolescents met at the Statehouse for the annual Children's Mental Health Awareness Rally today.

Note: "Protecting our children is one of the most important things we can do, and making sure that children affected by mental illness are provided the treatment they need is an important part of that. Raising awareness about this issue and making sure the public is educated is critical in making sure these kids are able to live the normal, productive lives they deserve," says Governor Haley.

Associated Press: Haley, Livingston cite day for military spouses

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

Several dozen military members and their spouses from across the state are joining South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley in proclaiming a special day for military spouses. Haley and Adjutant Gen. Robert Livingston are presenting a proclamation declaring Friday as Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

WLTX (Video): Senator Sheheen Proposes Full Breach Report be Released

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/05/07/sheheen-hack-report-amendment/8835977/>

Coby Gallagher

Democratic candidate for governor Senator Vincent Sheheen is looking to make public the full report on the Department of Revenue breach that happened in 2012.

Note: Governor Haley's office responded to Sheheen's amendment, with Mayer releasing a statement saying, *"Once again Senator Sheheen is showing his true colors: his own ambition is more important than the best interests of our citizens. The governor has released a public report on the criminal hacking that includes every piece of information that law enforcement and Mandiant -- the IT experts brought in to secure our systems after the attack -- did not believe made South Carolina more vulnerable. The full report has been made available to every member of the General Assembly - and if Senator Sheheen spent less time political grandstanding and actually read the report, he might understand where Mandiant and law enforcement were coming from."*

Post and Courier: North Carolina tea party loss could boost Lindsey Graham win in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140507/PC1603/140509477/1031/north-carolina-tea-party-loss-could-boost-lindsey-graham-win-in-south-carolina>

Schuyler Kropf

North Carolina's Republican House Speaker Thom Tillis - seen as the "establishment" favorite - on Tuesday won that state's GOP Senate primary outright, avoiding what could have been a costly runoff against a tea party favorite or any of the six other candidates on the ballot.

Florence Morning News: Lawmakers propose alternatives to Guard cuts

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_d0b64756-d656-11e3-8f0d-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

U.S. Senate hopeful Republican Det Bowers campaigned Wednesday throughout Florence, trying to differentiate himself from a field of five other candidates looking to unseat Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham as the upcoming June 10 primary heats up.

Florence Morning News: Challenger accuses adjutant general of cover-up

http://www.scnw.com/news/article_46ff9934-d649-11e3-8d67-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Lt. Col. James Breazeale claimed Wednesday during a teleconference that current South Carolina Adjutant General Bob Livingston had knowledge of a widespread National Guard recruitment scandal investigation that includes S.C. Army National Guard members, according to the Department of Justice.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Here's the real danger in the Harrell ruling

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3432896/scoppe-heres-the-real-danger-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

WE WANT our judges to be careful, to consider all the sides of all the issues before them. And although this ought to be our goal in all cases, it's particularly important in such a potentially explosive case as the State Grand Jury investigation into corruption allegations against House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

Times and Democrat: Ethics reform will wait until reality accepted

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/ethics-reform-will-wait-until-reality-accepted/article_b6570c3e-d646-11e3-9d59-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Lawmakers overseeing lawmakers. OUR VIEW: Proposals to take away Legislature's power to investigate and punish members are not realistic. Do not expect ethics reform to pass in 2014 despite just about everyone in Columbia political circles saying legislation is a priority.

Island Packet: Take more careful look at school board budget

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/07/3099020/take-more-careful-look-at-school.html?sp=/99/342/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

The Beaufort County School District cites matters beyond its control as a reason it might need \$10 million more in funding from county sources than it received a year ago. Unfunded state mandates are largely to blame, superintendent Jeff Moss has said.

Post and Courier: American 'decline' overstated

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140508/PC1002/140509465/1021/>

Editorial

The New York Times recently reported that the America no longer ranks No. 1 globally in middle-class wealth. And the World Bank said that China would likely surpass the United States as the world's biggest economy this year. Should we hold a moment of silence for the end of the American Century? Are we headed for second-class status?

Post and Courier: Debating evolution is beneficial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140508/PC1002/140509467/1021/>

Editorial

In a recent column, Brian Hicks once again attacked "religious fundamentalists" while extolling scientists who, according to Hicks, all agree with Darwin's theory of evolution. They don't, of course. He ridicules the very idea that students might gain from debating arguments for and against Darwinism.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: Judge in Bobby Harrell's ethics case is no stranger to pressure

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140507/PC1610/140509474/1177/judge-in-bobby-harrells-ethics-case-is-no-stranger-to-pressure>

Robert Behre, Schuyler Kropf

The judge who soon will make a key ruling in House Speaker Bobby Harrell's ethics case is no stranger to high-profile, politically charged cases. But he's also quietly broken barriers on the basketball court and beyond.

Associated Press: Senators debating punishing colleges for books

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kZf32GGV

Seanna Adcox

A Democratic senator called his colleagues homophobic Wednesday for trying to punish two South Carolina universities that assigned gay-themed books to incoming freshmen. The Senate twice refused to kill an amendment cutting \$70,000 from the public colleges' own revenue sources.

The State: SC senators spar over gay-themed books

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3433709/sc-senators-spar-over-gay-themed.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

State senators will resume debating Thursday whether to restore money that was cut from two S.C. colleges after the schools assigned freshmen to read gay-themed books. For hours Wednesday, senators debated the nearly \$70,000 cut by the S.C. House from the budgets of the College of Charleston and University of South Carolina Upstate.

Associated Press: SC Senate rejects putting 4K on surplus list

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FYEHlo98

Seanna Adcox

The South Carolina Senate tentatively approved a budget plan Wednesday that makes kindergarten for 4-year-olds available to thousands of additional poor children. Senators gave a key second reading to a \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes. But they carried over debate on most amendments. They will attempt to wrap up their work Thursday.

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate allocates more funds to 4-year-old kindergarten expansion over local governments

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140507/PC1603/140509454/1031/sc-senate-allocates-more-funds-to-4-year-old-kindergarten-expansion-over-local-governments>

Jeremy Borden

City and county governments in South Carolina may have fewer dollars when they consider their budgets this year after a Wednesday decision by the S.C. Senate prioritized early education spending over additional funds to local governments.

The State: Narrow medical marijuana approval possible in S.C.

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3432386/narrow-medical-marijuana-approval.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

While a broad medical marijuana bill withered and died in the state legislature this session, bills allowing a more specific use of a medical marijuana extract to treat forms of epilepsy have a chance for passage. A Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee on Wednesday moved forward with a bill, H.4803, that would allow the use of cannabidiol oil, or CBD, in clinical trials.

Associated Press: Miss SC urges statewide texting-while-driving ban

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mf6EHm1l

Andrew Coffman Smith

Miss South Carolina Brooke Mosteller has thrown her tiara into the political ring. Following in the footsteps of her uncle, Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Isle of Palms, Mosteller joined scores of pageant contestants at the Statehouse on Wednesday to petition lawmakers to ban texting while driving.

The State: Statewide texting ban gains momentum, 'sparkle'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3433331/statewide-texting-ban-gains-momentum.html>

Jamie Self

A statewide texting ban is gaining momentum with backing from the S.C. House, some Senate leaders and a bit of political "sparkle" — supplied by S.C. beauty queens. Miss S.C. 2013 Brooke Mosteller came to the State House Wednesday with Miss Teen S.C. Brook Sill and dozens of other women vying for Mosteller's crown this year, to sign a pledge not to text while driving.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Gannett Washington Bureau: Wilson, Graham Oppose National Guard Cuts

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/05/07/joe-wilson-lindsey-graham-oppose-national-guard-cuts/8824057/>

Mary Troyan

The Army National Guard would avoid personnel and equipment cuts under proposals from two South Carolina lawmakers. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-Seneca, are leading an effort on Capitol Hill to preserve the size of the military's reserve forces and help reserve units, including one outside of Columbia, keep their attack helicopters.

Florence Morning News: State bill would create new West Florence Fire District

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_f0ab1b58-d652-11e3-aa98-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Several members of the Florence and Darlington County delegations sponsored and introduced a bill Wednesday that would turn the West Florence Fire District into its own special purpose tax district, a move that would be a blow to the county's proposed unified fire protection district.

Anderson Independent: S.C. Senate rejects bid to shift kindergarten money to cities and counties

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/07/sc-senate-rejects-bid-to-shift-kindergarten-to/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The South Carolina Senate rejected a proposal Wednesday to shift \$16 million earmarked for expanding 4-year-old kindergarten classes to the state's cities and counties. Republican Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens proposed reallocating the money.

Aiken Standard: S.C. House adds amendments to sales tax bill

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140508/AIK0101/140509456/1004/sc-house-adds-amendments-to-sales-tax-bill>

Rob Novit

Aiken County's House members in the General Assembly were hoping to get a "clean" bill that would pave the way to give county voters the option to support a penny sales tax increase for schools in the November general election.

South Carolina News:

Anderson Independent: Anderson County trying to land \$1 billion in company investments

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/07/anderson-county-trying-to-land-1-billion-in/?partner=RSS>

Nikie Mayo

Anderson County is courting a few companies that together could bring \$1 billion in investment and 480 jobs to the Upstate in the short term and could double those numbers within 10 years, economic development director Burriss Nelson said Wednesday.

Greenville News: Agency planning housing for homeless

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/07/agency-planning-housing-homeless/8836567/>

Cheryl P. Allen

Sometimes it's not just about meeting immediate needs but also about achieving long-term goals. "A lot of times you can feed the hungry but you don't grow with them," said Nancy Webb, board member for Daily Bread Ministries, which operates the Greer Soup Kitchen.

The State: SC seawall ban crumbling as landowners seek help

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3433445/sc-seawall-ban-crumbling-as-landowners.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

A state law intended to protect public beaches across South Carolina continues to crumble as legislators seek help for a select group of seaside property owners whose homes are at risk from the ocean. As early as Thursday morning, a House committee was expected to approve easing the state's 26-year-old ban on new seawalls, even though scientists say the structures worsen beach erosion when hit by waves.

Associated Press: Authorities talk ways to protect SC children

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

Meg Kinnard

U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles, state Attorney General Alan Wilson and Department of Health and Environmental Control director Catherine Templeton are among the officials scheduled to hold a news conference on

Thursday at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Columbia.

Associated Press: SC tourism leader goes to Capitol Hill to testify

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9FrYINkq

One of South Carolina's top tourism officials is in Washington talking about tourism promotion. Brad Dean, the president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, testifies on Thursday before a U. S. Senate committee.

Local News:

The State: Columbia's historic downtown YMCA likely to be bought by First Baptist Church

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3432086/exclusive-columbias-historic-downtown.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The historic YMCA building in downtown Columbia is being sold/will likely be sold to the also historic First Baptist Church on the same city block, The State newspaper has learned. According to an email sent to YMCA staff in the past several days, the YMCA at 1420 Sumter St. will probably be sold to First Baptist Church within 90 days.

Greenville News: Greenville may hike fees, property taxes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/07/greenville-may-hike-taxes-fees/8835023/>

Anna Lee

Greenville residents could see their property taxes climb for the first time in 21 years in the proposed 2014-2015 budget currently before Greenville City Council. The first draft of the total \$156 million budget increased by 13 percent over the current year's and reflects a city experiencing unprecedented growth, which in turn has put more demand on services, according to City Manager John Castile.

National News:

Associated Press: Senate Democratic leader blocks Keystone XL pipeline vote as talks on energy bill fail

<http://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2014/05/07/hopes-for-keystone-xl-vote-fade-as-talks-fail>

Matthew Daly

A bid by supporters of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline to force a vote on the controversial project fell apart Wednesday amid partisan bickering over how the vote should be conducted. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., used a parliamentary maneuver to block a bid by pipeline supporters to include the pipeline measure in an energy efficiency bill moving forward in the Senate.

Daily Beast: Hillary's State Department Refused to Brand Boko Haram as Terrorists

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/05/07/hillary-s-state-department-refused-to-brand-boko-haram-as-terrorists.html>

Josh Rogin

The State Department under Hillary Clinton fought hard against placing the al Qaeda-linked militant group Boko Haram on its official list of foreign terrorist organizations for two years. And now, lawmakers and former U.S. officials are saying that the decision may have hampered the American government's ability to confront the Nigerian group that shocked the world by abducting hundreds of innocent girls.

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