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Subject: Clips – Saturday, April 30, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Post: The first female president of the United States might not be who you'd expect https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-first-female-president-of-the-united-states-might-not-be-who-you-d-expect/2016/04/29/41a6aaaa-0be3-11e6-a6b6-2e6de3695b0e_story.html

Howard Gutman

The United States may soon have its first female president. And it may not be Hillary Clinton. Enter Nikki Haley. Generally beloved by the establishment and the insurgent outsiders in the Republican Party, the South Carolina governor is among the few who seek out the cameras without looking like a 2016 subversive. She has license to engage with the media all the way to Cleveland. And since any eventual nominee is certain to see in her a strong asset on the campaign trail, a Cabinet official or even a potential running mate, her reputation will stay unsullied as the daggers continue to fly. She can in all good faith even continue to believe — or at least act as though she believes — that all she is doing is helping put the best face on her party in a moment of need. Ignorance can be such profitable bliss. But the understudy often fills in when the lead goes down. With “none of the above” becoming ever more obvious as Cleveland gets closer, Haley’s convention speaking slot may need to be moved to Thursday night.

Sun News: Feeling blue about antics of Tar Heel state

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/bob-bestler/article74720552.html>

Bob Bestler

Contrast McCrory’s actions — calling the first special session in 35 years to rush through a discriminatory law — against the position taken by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley. “While other states are having this battle, this is not a battle that we have seen as needed in South Carolina,” she said a couple of weeks ago. “South Carolina is doing really well when it comes to respect, when it comes to kindness and when it comes to acceptance.” I didn’t vote for her, but I’ve been a closet Haley fan since she teared up over the Mother Emanuel shootings, then called, finally and successfully, for the removal of the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds.

Greenville News: Haley: Senate road-funding bill a waste without reform

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/29/haley-senate-road-funding-bill-waste-without-reform/83704282/>

Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley says lawmakers need to pass reforms to the state's highway department or a bill that would produce about \$3 billion for work on roads and bridges would be "throwing money away." The comments from Haley's office to The Greenville News are the first public indicators of the governor's position on the Senate's road-funding bill since it was passed earlier this week. "Throwing money at a system that's broken is throwing money away," said Chaney Adams, Haley's press secretary, in a statement. "We need to reform the DOT so that we get rid of the political horse trading and instead have a state plan that focuses on needs like traffic, safety and economic development. Until that happens, we're wasting taxpayer dollars."

Note: Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Larry Grooms said he believes if reforms don't come with funding, Haley will veto the bill. "I am confident that if we have the reforms passed out of the Senate and the House, and the funding component, that the governor would sign the bill," he

said.

Island Packet: Haley to attend Jasper Ocean Terminal status meeting

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/business/article74715732.html>

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to participate in a public meeting on the status of the Jasper Ocean Terminal at 10:30 a.m. Monday. The meeting will be held at the Jasper County Government Building, third floor council chambers, 358 Third Avenue, Ridgeland. Haley will be joined by members of the Jasper County Council, members of the board of directors of the South Carolina Ports Authority, Jasper Ocean Terminal Joint Project Office officials and state legislators to discuss the progress of the Jasper Ocean Terminal Project, according to a news release.

General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: Lawmakers to consider roads and bridges, ethics and farm aid

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429345>

Christina Cleveland

A critical legislative deadline has passed. Any lingering legislation in the S.C. Statehouse that hasn't passed from one chamber to another is unlikely to become law in South Carolina this year, lawmakers say. The crossover deadline for the state legislature was Thursday. Lawmakers, however, will continue to address legislation that has made the cut, namely bills involving reforming ethics and improving the state's crumbling infrastructure.

WLTX: SC House Passes Bill to Get Slow Drivers in Right Lane

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/sc-house-passes-bill-to-get-slow-drivers-in-right-lane/160788477>

Robert Kittle

The South Carolina House passed a bill Thursday aimed at getting slower drivers out of the left lane on Interstate highways. The bill would have the DOT put on its digital signs the message that slower vehicles must be in the right lane. State law already says drivers should stay in the right lane except when passing or when there's an obstruction in that lane, or when coming upon a police car, fire truck, or ambulance on the right. But Rep. Robert Brown, D-Charleston, sponsor of the bill, says the signs will make sure drivers are aware of the law and make it easier to enforce.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: Southern Carolina Alliance defends motion to intervene in \$100 million MOX lawsuit

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429343>

Thomas Gardiner

The Southern Carolina Alliance submitted another round of filings in the ongoing MOX legal saga to defend its intervention in the case. The Alliance first filed the motion to intervene at the end of last month, claiming it had a stake in fines being levied against the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, for failing to meet the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, MOX, construction deadline of Jan. 1, 2016. The Alliance said it represents an area of Barnwell and Allendale counties near the Savannah River Site, where the economic impact of the MOX project is very important.

Note: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's office said, "The law is clear, these payments are due to the state alone, not other individuals or groups that may also wish to collect."

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Nuclear Solutions signs consent order to take steps to correct safety compliance concerns

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429344>

Thomas Gardiner

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, or SRNS, signed a consent order with the U.S. Department of Energy, or DOE, last Friday, agreeing to terms of reconciliation for safety compliance shortfalls last year. SRNS, the company contracted by the DOE to run operations at Savannah River Site, or SRS,

initiated an operation pause and months-long return to normal operations. According to SRNS officials and previous reporting by the Aiken Standard, high winds were to blame for the first issue of concern in early 2015. Storms disconnected a ground wire, short-circuiting the agitators in H Area tanks designed to process aqueous nuclear material. In September, a first-line manager and several employees put three plutonium samples into storage in containers that were not approved for plutonium storage.

Aiken Standard: Savannah River Remediation improves efficiency of salt waste system at Savannah River Site

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429347>

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that Savannah River Remediation, the liquid waste contractor at Savannah River Site, has refined and improved the efficiency in the salt waste system. Over time, SRR has been able to identify salt solutions with smaller amounts of soluble radioactive materials in the waste batches. As a result, there is little benefit to adding MST in processing the salt waste. By eliminating MST, SRR is reducing the amount of solids and increasing the process flow rate capacity of material to other liquid waste facilities. To date, SRR has successfully processed approximately 200,000 gallons of the salt waste using this method.

LGBT Laws:

Sun News: Horry County Schools may support appeal of federal transgender bathroom law

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article74742882.html>

Claire Byun

Horry County Schools may join an appeal requiring the district to allow students to use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify, just days after a transgender legal agency threatened to sue the district. A specially-called Board of Education meeting – scheduled for Monday– might lead to the district supporting a Virginia appeal requiring the district to allow students to use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify. Since the district cannot join the appeal – since they were not part of the lawsuit – they will probably file an amicus curiae brief to show support for the Virginia district. “We would like to see that ruling overturned,” said Joe DeFeo, board of education chairman.

SC Political News:

Post and Courier: How Clyburn, at last, found Republican support for his anti-poverty plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160430/PC1603/160439988>

Emma Dumain

Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn has found a legislative home for his plan to combat poverty in communities around the country. And he has Republicans to thank for it. The South Carolina lawmaker was able to convince the chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee — Kentucky Republican Hal Rogers — to include his “10-20-30” plan in the House version of the 2017 agriculture appropriations bill. The provision would direct a variety of rural development initiatives to provide at least 10 percent of its funding to “persistent poverty” counties, defined as those counties where 20 percent of the population has been living in poverty for over 30 years.

USA Today: Confederate flag controversy simmers on in Congress

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/29/confederate-flag-controversy-simmers-congress/83707012/>

Deborah Barfield Berry

The battle over the Confederate flag isn't over in Congress. Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the assistant Democratic leader, said Friday he's not giving up his effort to force the flag's removal from a chapel at The Citadel military college in South Carolina. On Thursday, Republicans on the House Armed Services Committee voted down that proposal by Clyburn and Democratic Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state.

Post and Courier: The Citadel's Confederate flag came down quietly, years before current debate
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC16/160429309>

Paul Bowers

Col. Brett Ashworth, a spokesman for The Citadel, said the public military college installed the camera on March 17. About two weeks prior, police had arrested a 1993 Citadel graduate and self-described flag opponent in front of the chapel after he led them on a chase and demanded that somebody tell Citadel President Lt. Gen. John Rosa "to come see me and take it down now." The man may not have known it, but the flag had already come down once before, quietly, in the fall of 2013. The flag's removal and eventual reinstatement predate the current furor over the flag's white supremacist connotations and seem to show an administration that bent to pressure from defenders of the flag.

The State: SC Democrats hope top candidates shine at state convention

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article74731477.html#storylink=apmobile>

Jamie Self

As S.C. Democrats convene Saturday, they have high hopes of regaining a congressional seat long held by a party power. Democrats also will be electing delegates to help pick their party's presidential nominee in July. Tega Cay's Fran Person, a former eight-year aide to Vice President Joe Biden, is perhaps the party's fastest rising S.C. star. Person, who will speak briefly at the convention, is running for the state's 5th District congressional seat, now held by U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land. Person's candidacy has created buzz in Democratic circles. The political newcomer is viewed as potentially competitive in a GOP-dominated state, where congressional districts have grown redder after redistricting.

SC Zika News:

The State: South Carolina confirms first case of Zika virus

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74689707.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

The first South Carolinian has tested positive for the Zika virus. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control announced Friday that the case was confirmed in a person who recently traveled to a country where the Zika virus is active. However, the agency would not release any information about the patient because of confidentiality concerns, including the person's gender and where he or she lives. Officials also would not identify the country or region where the patient traveled. Dr. Teresa Foo, a DHEC medical consultant, said the patient developed symptoms while traveling and, upon returning to home, consulted a health care provider.

Post and Courier: First Zika case reported in S.C.; DHEC says resident contracted virus overseas

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC1211/160429313>

Derrek Asberry

State regulators confirmed Friday that a South Carolina resident has been diagnosed with the Zika virus, but that the resident contracted it overseas. "The individual did not have symptoms and was not contagious by the time they returned to the United States," the state Department of Health and Environmental Control wrote in a press release Friday. "Therefore, there is no risk to public health and no risk of transmission to people or mosquitoes in South Carolina at this time." No further details on the patient's gender, residence or physical condition will be released.

Greenville News: South Carolina confirms first case of Zika virus in state

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/health/2016/04/29/south-carolina-confirms-first-case-zika-virus-state/83711002/>

Liv Osby

South Carolina public health officials on Friday confirmed the first case of Zika virus in the state. The infection was confirmed in a resident who'd recently traveled to a country with active transmission of the virus, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. "We had expected to see a case appear in South Carolina eventually as more people vacation to countries where the Zika virus is actively spreading," said Dr. Teresa Foo, DHEC medical consultant. "As our state's public health agency, we actively monitor for the arrival of new diseases in South Carolina in an effort to help stop the spread of the illness."

Aiken Standard: First travel-associated Zika case confirmed in South Carolina

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160429/AIK0101/160429368>

Christina Cleveland

The first travel-associated Zika case has been confirmed in South Carolina, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control announced Friday. The case was confirmed in a South Carolina resident who recently traveled to a country with active transmission of the Zika virus, according to a DHEC news release. The person did not have symptoms and was not contagious by the time they returned to the U.S., according to DHEC. The agency said there is no risk to public health and no risk of transmission to people or mosquitoes in the state at this time.

Sun News: Zika virus appears in SC as Horry officials discuss mosquito control

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article74703617.html>

Audrey Hudson

Weekly aerial spraying to kill mosquitoes this summer would cost millions of dollars and won't prevent an outbreak of the Zika virus, say Horry County officials. With a mosquito control budget of more than \$400,000 for this year, and the weekly cost of aerial spraying at \$600,000, officials say the focus must be on public education and enforcing measures to get rid of the bug's hatching pools in abandoned cars and old tires. The Horry County Council discussed strategies to deal with growing health problems caused by mosquitoes including the Zika, West Nile, and Dengue virus, during a budget retreat Thursday.

Opinion/Editorial:

Post and Courier: Leatherman to the road-funding rescue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160430/160439957/leatherman-to-the-road-funding-rescue>

Editorial: Ron Brinson

A couple of weeks ago, it seemed critical road funding proposals in the Legislature had collided head-on into another cycle of feckless do-nothingness. A thoughtful House bill had been matched up with a Senate measure that pussy-footed around realities of user-based fuel taxes. The Senate action amounted to a fearful yield to that vacuous right-wing ideology of "no new taxes, any time for anything," not even for safer roads in a state long on notice that its highways are in a cascading dynamic of costly and treacherous neglect.

Note: There were competing plans, too, for reforming or restructuring the Department of Transportation, including giving the governor appointment control for the commission. Governor Haley was yelling at just about everybody, especially House leaders who just wouldn't accept the Senate's no-new-fuel-tax alternative and the Senate-only confirmation of highway commissioners. Road funding and system reform legislation for 2016 had careened into a deep and dirty election-year ditch.

Note: The Leatherman package is still not quite a done deal, but prospects for final passage seem positive. And with DOT restructuring and reforms included and fuel tax increases excluded, Gov. Nikki Haley should have no veto issues.

South Carolina News:

The State: SCANA accused of pollution coverup

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74802837.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

A former environmental manager at SCANA says the utility fired her for exposing an array of pollution problems the company needed to address on and around its property, including coal tar that leaked from one site near the Congaree River, according to records released Friday. Laura Blake-Orr, who had worked at SCANA since 1984, also said the company dismissed her because she was a woman in a corporation dominated by male executives. Blake-Orr's allegations are contained in a 2015 federal whistleblower complaint and a discrimination lawsuit filed this week in Lexington County court.

WACH: Former SCANA employee suing company for wrongful termination

<http://wach.com/news/local/former-scana-employee-suing-company-for-wrongful-termination>

Matthew Stevens

A former employee of SCANA is suing the company for gender discrimination, age discrimination and retaliation. Laura Blake-Orr worked for SCANA for 31 years and was a manager there when she was fired in March of 2015. Blake-Orr said men are treated better than woman, especially at the management level at SCANA. According to the suit, Blake-Orr filed a complaint of retaliation under whistle blower guidelines after she says SCANA retaliated and fired her for insisting the company complies with laws related to environmental safety guidelines.

Post and Courier: Report: Port of Charleston benefiting from strong logistics, real estate trends

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160429/PC05/160429307>

With an inland port rail network stretching from the coast to the Upstate, the Port of Charleston gets high marks in a new report comparing the strengths of logistics networks and real estate markets serving North American seaports. The port is No. 8 in the annual ranking by CBRE, a big commercial real estate firm. While that is down from No. 7 last year, the drop is due to gains from other ports and not because of any weakening at the State Ports Authority. "Charleston has continued to be one of the leading ports in North American cargo growth," said Robert Barrineau, senior vice president of CBRE's Charleston office.

The State: Joey Meek knew what Dylann Roof was going to do, told others not to talk to FBI

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article74651222.html>

John Monk

Joey Meek, friend of accused killer Dylann Roof, admitted Friday in federal court that he knew details about Dylann Roof's plan to kill black people at a Charleston church's Bible study class a full week before last June's execution-style killing of nine parishioners. Meek, 21, of Red Bank made the admission to U.S. Judge Richard Gergel during his guilty plea hearing Friday afternoon in Charleston. Roof, who had steeped himself in Internet teachings of white supremacy and regarded the Confederate flag as sacred, stayed at Meek's mobile home in the Red Bank area of Lexington County in the weeks before last June's killings. When the FBI arrived at Meek's mobile home after the killings, Meek was questioned by an FBI agent, and he denied knowing about the killings in advance. "You intended to mislead him, did you not?" Gergel asked. "Yes, your honor," Meek replied.

Local News:

The Herald: Defendants in Chester councilman's slaying get bond

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/crime/article74791627.html>

Teddy Kulmala

A judge on Friday granted bond for two defendants charged in the 2014 slaying of Chester City Councilman Odell Williams; however, their bonds will not take effect for 90 days. Circuit Court Judge Thomas Russo granted bond for Christopher Moore, 19, and Quinton McClinton, 27, setting Moore's bond at \$50,000 and McClinton's at \$30,000. Moore is charged with murder in the Nov. 4, 2014, shooting death of Williams, 69. McClinton and three other co-defendants are charged as accessories.

Greenville News: Yik Yak founder reveals how app tapped millennial market

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/04/29/yik-yak-founder-reveals-how-app-tapped-millennial-market/83647374/>

Amanda Coyne

Nearly three years ago, Brooks Buffington had just graduated from Furman University and told his skeptical parents that he would forego a job in finance to develop apps with his friend and classmate Tyler Droll. Wednesday afternoon, he told a ballroom of entrepreneurs, tech professionals and investors how he and Droll developed popular message board app Yik Yak and cultivated the fun, goofy company image that has resonated with college students at more than 2,000 schools across the country.

Note: The app also has gotten involved in cases where users anonymously threaten others. Yik Yak can hand over the data associated with threatening messages to police to help stop any potential threat. This was the case in Clemson last week, when anonymous threats against black students participating in a sit-in were posted on Yik Yak. A Clemson University student was later arrested.

The State: Richland Council gets grim answers to impact of meeting penny tax demands

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article74768752.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County Council had a litany of questions and concerns at a Friday work session relating to what one councilman described as the “hostage situation” with the county’s transportation penny sales tax funds. Council learned it would cost more than \$3 million from the county’s annual general fund budget – separate from the penny tax fund – to cover costs that the state Department of Revenue says should not be paid for by the penny sales tax. Council members were uncertain whether they also might have to repay from the general fund the nearly \$10 million that have already been spent that DOR says shouldn’t have been paid by the penny. But they don’t yet have all the answers.

Post and Courier: A hospital, a rail line and an uncertain future

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160430/PC16/160439999>

Robert Behre

It’s the place where many of “the greatest generation” healed from their greatest injuries, but for preservationists, the former Charleston Naval Base’s hospital is now the one in need of care. Plans to run a new rail line through the heart of this national historic district are chugging along, and the state agency that owns the hospital complex says no one has stepped forward with a plan to renovate and reuse it. Meanwhile, preservationists say the agency needs to put more on the table to offset the negative impact of its new rail line — one that could run about 1,400 feet through the district and demolish five of its historic buildings.

WLTX: Counties Face Issues Trying To Fix Roads

<http://www.wltx.com/news/counties-face-issues-trying-to-fix-roads/160405343>

Sonia Gutierrez

It's been almost seven months since the October flood and some Midlands counties are still working on fixing the roads. Both Sumter and Kershaw Counties are right in the middle of contracting out the work they couldn't handle and that's just one big challenge for county roads. Sumter County had 373 roads damaged during the storm. Roads that were temporarily repaired have since been permanently repaired leaving them with just 7 more roads to fix. Here is the list of roads Sumter County still needs to fix...

Independent Mail: Dry spring has landscape crews, pharmacists busy in Upstate

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/dry-spring-has-landscape-crews-pharmacists-busy-in-upstate-31a2b729-d3da-2d92-e053-0100007faca4-377637361.html>

Abe Hardesty

Usually abundant in Anderson yards at this time of year, water has been scarce of late. The March

rainfall total in downtown Anderson was only 1.39 inches — less than a third of the normal amount — and the April rainfall total is less than half the norm. Anderson's rainfall total for the two month is 3.06 inches in a period when the historic average is 8.19 inches. The county's rainfall has been below normal in each of the first four months of the year. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the western corner of the state — most of Oconee County and a small corridor of Anderson County — is in a moderate drought. Most of Anderson and all of Pickens counties are classified as abnormally dry.

Associated Press: Parris Island Marine Corps Band plays concert in Beaufort
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6oLDGW4x
SC State Wire

Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Band from Parris Island are tuning up for a free public concert. Marine Corps spokeswoman Sgt. Rebecca Schilling says Saturday's performance is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Community Bible Church in Beaufort. Members of the Parris Island band are being joined by members of the U.S. Marine Band in Washington, D.C., famed as "The President's Own." That band's mission is to perform for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was founded in 1798 by an act of Congress and is the nation's oldest continuously active professional musical organization.

National News:

Associated Press: Trump, Clinton angle for advantage in politics of gender
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:096de9530d4b479eaf849b480916f762>
Nancy Benac

That message may resonate with one subset of the electorate and touch off outrage with another. But for many other voters, Trump's line of attack is simply baffling when America is trying to deal with far more complex matters of gender, such as gay marriage and transgender rights. "It's a very simplistic notion of gender," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. She said Trump is "putting out there a notion of masculinity" that fits with popular images of the presidency. "He is playing the gender card but not connecting it to policy, instead connecting it to his own macho image and his bravado."

Associated Press: Supreme Court trying to find its way after Scalia
<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:4a2a28eb4b0d4fbc851d9c5504f92696>
Mark Sherman and Sam Hananel

Two months, 31 arguments and 18 decisions since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, is the Supreme Court hopelessly deadlocked or coping as a party of eight? The answer varies with the issue, but arguments last week in the corruption case of former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell show there are high-profile cases on which justices from the left and the right agree more often than they don't. There also is some indication, hazy though it may be, that the court is trying to avoid division in an era of stark political partisanship and during a rollicking presidential campaign.

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