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Subject: Clips – Sunday, April 5, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Lawmakers frustrated at Statehouse gridlock after change on leadership
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150405/PC1603/150409632>

Cynthia Roldan, Jeremy Borden

South Carolina's legislative session began with new leadership in the House and Senate and high hopes of fixing some long-standing problems: an epidemic of domestic violence, poor roads and bridges and ethics reform.

Note: But lawmakers headed home for the holiday break feeling that little has been accomplished — nearly all the priorities mentioned at the outset remain stalled by disagreements between the House and Senate or languishing because of disputes with Gov. Nikki Haley.

Haley in the middle: Lawmakers in both chambers also place some of the blame on Haley's tactics for the lack of progress this session. During an appearance in Florence last month, Haley did something that could linger with the Senate for the rest of the session: She called out Leatherman in his hometown and accused him of blocking ethics reform.

The State: When freedom calls ... for more government

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article17411072.html>

“Quick, ask the government for help!”: It is something The Buzz seldom hears in the deep-red Palmetto State, especially not from limited-government, pro-free market folks.

Haley's April Fools': While talking about the litter campaign, Haley mentioned she had been “in Iowa over the weekend,” adding that citizens in that state can text law enforcement if they see litter. Haley's reference to the early 2016 presidential early primary state did not slip by a Post and Courier reporter, who asked Haley if she could share what she was doing in Iowa.

Note: “No,” Haley replied. “It's just good you were paying attention. April Fools'.”

Sumter Item: Gov. Haley dedicates April to the military child

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/gov-haley-dedicates-april-to-the-military-child,244359?>

Adrienne Sarvis

Gov. Nikki Haley declared April the month of military children in South Carolina during a proclamation reading on Thursday at the State House in Columbia. Throughout the month of April, military children will be recognized for enduring the absence of a parent during deployment or the loss of a parent during military service.

S.C. General Assembly News:

The State: USC, Clemson, lawmakers aim to tighten fraternity rules

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article17421659.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina's two largest colleges — and now state lawmakers — plan to examine stricter oversight of fraternities after a series of recent incidents and the deaths of two pledges this school year. Three University of South Carolina fraternity chapters have closed this school year, including one after the death of a pledge. That compares to only two chapters shut down in the previous three years combined.

Associated Press: Bill to let city change segregated war memorial goes nowhere

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2zNWRdmJ

Jeffrey Collins

With the South Carolina Legislature apparently refusing to let Greenwood change its war memorial, which currently segregates the list of dead soldiers in two world wars to “white” and “colored,” the fight could be

moving on to new territory in the courts.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Sunday starts nine days of Republican presidential candidate visits to Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150404/PC1603/150409750>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston's importance in the Republican presidential selection process will be highlighted in the week ahead as a flood of candidates is expected in the next eight days, showing the importance of visiting the first Southern primary state early and often. The run begins this morning when U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and his family attend an Easter sunrise service near The Battery.

Note: Most all of the coming week's visitors are part of what poll numbers indicate are the lower-tier favorites in South Carolina, where former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham are at the top. Bush and Walker recently appeared with Gov. Nikki Haley during their first forays into the state last month.

Post and Courier: Larry Kobrovsky challenger emerges in Charleston GOP race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150405/PC1603/150409774>

Former school board member Larry Kobrovsky may have gotten early backing for taking over the Charleston County Republican Party's top leadership post, but a challenger with a long party resume has stepped forward to take him on.

Sanford for Rand Paul? U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford will be at Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's South Carolina presidential campaign kickoff rally at noon Thursday in front of the aircraft carrier Yorktown at Patriots Point.

Jim Clyburn, still healthy: U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the state's only Democrat in Congress, says he's got no timetable on when his long career in Washington will come to an end.

Graham's home-field advantage: If U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham gets in the race for president, being from South Carolina could give him a built-in campaign advantage worth millions of dollars.

Aiken Standard: Presidential candidate Cruz makes campaign stop in Aiken

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150405/AIK0101/150409774/1121>

Teddy Kulmala

Less than two weeks after kicking off his campaign for the White House, Sen. Ted Cruz made a stop in Aiken on Saturday to talk with residents about his goals for the country if he is elected president. Cruz, R-Texas, told a crowd of nearly 300 people in Newberry Hall that he wants to reignite "the promise of America."

WACH: GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz stops through the Midlands

http://www.wach.com/news/story.aspx?id=1187107#.VSE2IPnF_4Y

Republican Ted Cruz made a campaign stop through Columbia this morning. He is the first person to officially announce his run for president. Ted came and spoke to the people at Palmetto Pig Barbeque. "Love the people of South Carolina", Cruz says to WACH FOX News. "I feel like they share my values."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: SC Gov. Haley must work with legislators

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article17441981.html>

Editorial

Is that Mark Sanford in a dress? Gov. Nikki Haley, like her predecessor, doesn't get along with the Legislature, even when it is populated overwhelmingly by members of her own party. When Haley first ran for the governorship, she promised cooperation. She would not be another Sanford, who had continually butted heads with the Legislature and rarely was able to form working coalitions to forward his agenda.

Post and Courier: Give DSS resources to protect children

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150405/PC1002/150409609>

Editorial

For years, the S.C. Department of Social Services got little attention from the Legislature. It was underfunded and unsuccessful in convincing legislators of the dire problems that occurred as a result. Now those problems are being addressed, and the needs are more evident than ever. It was the Senate DSS Oversight Committee that took the lead by investigating the agency for more than a year.

Post and Courier: 'No new taxes' could derail S.C. road funding solution

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150405/PC1002/150409612>

Ron Brinson

What a nice "selfie" of Nikki Haley and Scott Walker, two happy young governors riding the bus, headed to the White House and a meeting with President Obama. Smiling radiantly all the way. These two have much in common, like higher office ambitions — and fealty to the right-wing branding of any public agenda.

Greenville News: Switch back to partisan elections in Greenville

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/04/04/editorial-switch-back-partisan-elections-greenville/25291027/>

Editorial

Greenville City Council has an opportunity to undo a bad decision made last year, and in doing so prove that it listens to this city's minority community as well as understands the need to unite Greenville instead of putting it through a divisive referendum. On Monday the council will be asked to repeal the Council's 4-3 decision to switch the city from partisan to nonpartisan elections.

The State: What SC needs to learn from 4K study — and what we need to do

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article17350751.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Early intervention programs such as 4-year-old kindergarten can be life-altering, but they have to be done properly. Done properly means providing actual teachers who put together smart lesson plans to stimulate the growing brain, rather than simply providing glorified baby sitters whose main job is to provide a place to keep the kids for several hours a day.

Island Packet: I-95 safety getting deserved attention

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/04/04/3682728/editorial-i-95-safety-getting.html>

Editorial

Drivers received great news recently. State highway officials are planning safety improvements on Interstate 95 in Jasper County following an investigation by The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette. The stretch has been dubbed the "coffin corridor" because of the alarming number of fatal wrecks that are tree-related.

Post and Courier: Encouraging climate news

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150405/PC1002/150409610>

Editorial

Climate science rightly cautions against using short-term trends to explain broader phenomena, so it's probably best to keep any yearly data in perspective. That said, the International Energy Agency, an independent inter-governmental organization, has offered an unusually optimistic finding.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Pay student-athletes

Method promised by universities is better than proposed state legislation

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150405/OPINION/504051001/1128/opinion?Title=Pay-student-athletes&tc=ar>

Editorial

Student-athletes are the engine of a multibillion-dollar industry that fuels universities and colleges across the nation. Yet those students never see a dime of all that cash. In fact, student-athletes are so busy, they usually aren't able to hold a part-time job. Many students on athletic scholarships are not able to afford the extras that most students enjoy.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: South Carolina college student suspended over racial slur

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7o4o5rMd

The University of South Carolina says it has suspended a student over a photo showing a racial slur being written on a board in a campus study room. Multiple media outlets reported President Harris Pastides announced the suspension Friday. Pastides said the unidentified student also faces university code of conduct investigations. He said the school's Board of Trustees also endorsed the action.

Florence Morning News: Panel wants county to study leaving state health plan

http://www.snow.com/news/local/article_07671d78-db0d-11e4-9be4-2788b6f0b3c5.html

Gavin Jackson

Several county councilmen have agreed to continue exploring ways to mitigate rising health care costs by assessing the possibility of leaving the state health insurance plan if service levels can be maintained or increased at lower costs.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: York County looks to turn public's concerns into comprehensive plan

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article17427542.html>

Bristow Marchant

In some places, only a few residents showed up to hear about the prospects for York County's future. In others, large crowds peppered officials with questions and comments about roads, housing, density and the environment.

Associated Press: Ceremony recalling those lost at sea being held on SC coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8yDkjos

An annual ceremony remembering those lost at sea is being held in Murrells Inlet for Easter. This marks the 10th year the ceremony is being held at the granite memorial that was erected back in 2006. The memorial at that time had 17 names, but now the number has grown to 30.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Former judge shares God's word with inmates

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150404/ARTICLES/150409819/1112?Title=Former-judge-shares-God-s-word-with-inmates&tc=ar>

Kim Kimzey

The sun makes a grand display in one of the ugliest of places. Gold light bathes men playing basketball and gleams on the barbed wire that separates them from the outside. It's Monday. E.C. Burnett III and three friends are here for their weekly visit. The men are part of a Bible study ministry at Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church

Island Packet: Student athletes might be saved from paying to play in Beaufort County

http://www.islandpacket.com/2015/04/04/3682269_student-athletes-might-be-saved.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Sarah Bowman

Student athletes may not have to pay to play next school year, as was previously planned. Although its budget is far from final, the Beaufort County School District's current proposal has it covering the entire cost of athletic insurance -- something the school board said last year was likely to be passed on to students.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Two human trafficking suspects granted bond

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20150403/ARTICLES/150409863/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Two-human-trafficking-suspects-granted-bond&tc=ar>

Kim Kimzey

A circuit court judge granted bond to two suspects in a sex trafficking case Friday. Michael Gary Wayne Riddle, 20, of Spartanburg and Makalya Rose Bradford, 18, of Moore are each charged with two counts of promoting the prostitution of a minor. Both were granted \$5,000 surety bonds.

National News:

Associated Press: Tax refunds for many take hit or get bump from health law

<http://www.thestate.com/living/health-fitness/article17441078.html#storylink=cpy>

Ricardo Alonso, Zaldivar

As the April 15 tax deadline nears, people who got help paying for health insurance under President Barack Obama's law are seeing the direct effect on their refunds — hundreds of dollars, for better or worse. The law offers tax credits so people without access to job-based health insurance can buy private coverage.

New York Times: G.O.P.'s Israel Support Deepens as Political Contributions Shift

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/04/05/us/politics/gops-israel-support-deepens-as-political-contributions-shift.html?_r=2&referrer

Eric Lipton

As the proposed agreement over Iran's nuclear program is debated in coming weeks, President Obama will make his case to a Congress controlled by Republicans who are more fervently pro-Israel than ever, partly a result of ideology, but also a product of a surge in donations and campaign spending on their behalf by a small group of wealthy donors.

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