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Subject: Clips – Saturday, May 17, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: More SC residents finding work

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/16/scs-jobless-rate-drops-lowest-level-since-june/9166357/>

David Dykes

Strengthening job growth across a number of industries is propelling South Carolina's economy forward and helping lower the state's unemployment rate, which has dropped sharply in the past year, economists said. State officials said Friday the Palmetto State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.3 percent in April, down from 5.5 percent in March.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley praised the state's employment report, saying it was "something that every citizen of our state should be proud of" and another sign that South Carolina's approach to economic development "is delivering real results."

The State: SC jobless rate falls to lowest level in 13 years

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/16/3450214/sc-jobless-rate-falls-to-lowest.html>

Jeff Willkinson

South Carolina's jobless rate in April dipped to its lowest level in 13 years, and some economists are saying that the state and nation are moving from recovery to economic growth. However, concerns remain that the sharp drop in unemployment is due in large part to people giving up on finding jobs and leaving the work force.

Note: "Getting our unemployment rate to a nearly 13-year low is something that every citizen of our state should be proud of and another strong sign that Team South Carolina's approach to economic development is delivering real results," Haley said in a press release.

The Item: Sumter's unemployment rate dips to 5.7 percent

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/sumter-s-unemployment-rate-dips-to-percent/article_5bf63c3e-3014-581c-9d72-33763e97aada.html

Braden Bunch

Less than a week after economic forecasters predicted the area's unemployment rate would continue to drop because workers would continue to leave the labor force, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce reported the Sumter County workforce did exactly that in April.

Note: Still, the drop in unemployment rates, both on the county and statewide level, have officials praising the results. Gov. Nikki Haley's office pointed out that the state, now at 5.3 percent, is a full point below the national average for a third-straight month, adding the last time this happened was in 1998.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Historic ruling, enduring task

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140517/PC1002/140519372/1021/historic-ruling-enduring-task>
Editorial

Sixty years ago today, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously agreed that racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. That was a defining moment in American history, and in the life of the South.

The State: SC's uncommon, unreasonable uproar over Common Core

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/17/3450774/bolton-scs-uncommon-unreasonable.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

THE UNCOMMON and unreasonable uproar over Common Core doesn't add up to good things for our state

or its children. It's not that I've wholeheartedly embraced Common Core. Hey, it's change; we don't like change. My initial experience with Common Core as a parent wasn't the most pleasant.

Rock Hill Herald: County tax increase appears reasonable

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/15/5969569/county-tax-increase-appears-reasonable.html?sp=/100/105/>

Editorial

York County Council Chairman Britt Blackwell certainly couldn't be described as a tax-and-spend, big-government advocate. He calls himself a taxpayers' watchdog. Yet he sees a need for the proposed property tax increase considered by the County Council last week. So does Councilman Curwood Chappell, who also has opposed many a tax increase in the past.

S.C. Political News:

Florence Morning News: Pipkins wants to debate Alexander in House 59 race

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_ff1ff74e-dd41-11e3-a523-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

Alexis Pipkins Sr., and people involved with his campaign for the S.C. House District 59 seat called out incumbent Rep. Terry Alexander, D-Florence, Thursday evening for failing to debate him on issues as the Democratic primary looms.

Times and Democrat: Adjutant general says trust, integrity important to office

http://thetandd.com/news/local/adjutant-general-says-trust-integrity-important-to-office/article_d68e377c-dd60-11e3-8aab-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

South Carolina Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston defended the South Carolina National Guard's transparency and openness in answer to allegations from his opponent. "We have been very open in what we do because our strength is the trust of the American people," Livingston said during a stop in Orangeburg Thursday.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

WLTX: Senator Wants More Health Care Choices for Vets

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/health/2014/05/16/veterans-administration-health-care-choice/9187539/>

Tony Santaella

.S. Senator Lindsey Graham wants veterans to have more health care choice options as a way of improving the military's medical system. Graham and U.S. Representative Joe Wilson spoke with reporters Friday after having a meeting with officials at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Appeals court revives bid to stop SC school prayer

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

A federal appeals court has revived a South Carolina family's attempt to stop a public school from holding graduation ceremonies at a religious venue and including prayer in the program. The American Humanist Association and the unnamed family of a Greenville County fifth-grader filed the lawsuit last year.

Post and Courier: With license vote coming, InfiLaw's purchase of Charleston School of Law faces ongoing criticism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140516/PC16/140519417/1389/>

David Slade

Those opposing the pending sale of the Charleston School of Law on Friday urged S.C. Commission on Higher Education members to deny would-be owner InfiLaw a license, at a crowded hearing in North Charleston.

Greenville News: MAU to hold job fair for BMW positions

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/17/mau-hold-job-fair-bmw-positions/9206919/>

Woody White

MAU Workforce Solutions said it will hold a job fair Monday to hire contract workers for job openings at BMW Manufacturing Co. The job fair will take place at Spartanburg Community College's Tyger River Campus at 1875 East Main St. in Duncan. Those interested are encouraged to apply online before the job fair, and they must submit to a background check and drug screen.

Associated Press: Hands Across the Sand to hold SC drilling protest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=X7wvUjBZ

People opposed to gas and oil drilling off the South Carolina coast are literally joining hands to illustrate their stance. Hands Across the Sand events, where people form lines holding hands, are being held Saturday in four South Carolina communities. The state events are among dozens those being held in other towns across the nation and in 43 foreign countries.

Local News:

Times and Democrat: T&D Region jobless rates at lowest level in 6 years

http://thetandd.com/business/t-d-region-jobless-rates-at-lowest-level-in-years/article_4281a508-dd7b-11e3-a559-0019bb2963f4.html

Unemployment rates in The T&D Region fell to their lowest levels in six years in April. Orangeburg County Development Commission Executive Director Gregg Robinson said the county's lower rate is due to the improving economy.

Greenville News: Duke finishes plans for natural gas plant

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/17/duke-finishes-plans-natural-gas-plant/9206449/>

Eric Connor

Duke Energy announced the finalization of plans Friday to build and operate a natural gas-fired plant in place of the coal plant the company is closing in Anderson County. The W.S. Lee station, more than half a century old, is being retired as the federal government moves toward more restrictive standards on emissions, expected to be announced in June.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP leaders to block military immigration measure

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOUSE_GOP_IMMIGRATION?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HOUSE_GOP_IMMIGRATION?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-16-15-53-56)

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Erica Werner, Donna cassata

House Republican leaders intervened Friday to prevent a vote on immigration legislation, dealing a severe blow to election-year efforts to overhaul the dysfunctional system.

Politico: Hillary Clinton touts Bill Clinton's economic record

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/hillary-clinton-bill-clinton-economic-record-income-equality-106768.html?hp=I9>

Katie Glueck

Hillary Clinton on Friday defended her husband's economic legacy and touted it as an instructive model for the future, while also criticizing conservative financial policies as neglectful and irresponsible. Clinton, the likely Democratic frontrunner should she run for president in 2016, has in recent weeks spoken out for a slew of priorities for the Democratic base, including gun control and health care.

Associated Press: Health insurers blame losses on health-reform fees

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/05/16/3198640/hawaii-health-insurers-blame-losses.html?sp=/99/296/358/#storylink=cpy>

Cathy Bussewitz

Hawaii's two largest health insurers reported a combined \$36 million in quarterly losses Friday and blamed the downturn on fees required by the federal Affordable Care Act. Those fees may lead to higher premiums for customers, the companies said.

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