

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday May 2, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: Senate leader rejects Vincent Sheheen's probe request into Gov. Nikki Haley's office
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/02/3423328/senate-leader-rejects-vincent.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/1084/#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. Democratic gubernatorial challenger Vincent Sheheen will not get the investigation he sought into whether the governor's office interfered with a state Senate panel examining misconduct allegations at the S.C. Department of Social Services.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Judge considers case against House Speaker Harrell
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O3MpfCJ8

Meg Kinnard

A judge on Friday said he'll need about a week to consider whether a case against House Speaker Bobby Harrell should be handled by a legislative panel instead of in the state's courts. For more than an hour, Circuit Judge Casey Manning heard a request by the powerful Charleston Republican's attorneys, who say the allegations should be dealt with by the House Ethics Committee.

Post and Courier: Judge delays ruling on House Speaker Bobby Harrell ethics case
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140502/PC1610/140509885/1177/judge-delays-ruling-on-house-speaker-bobby-harrell-ethics-case>

Jeremy Borden

A Richland County Circuit Court judge delayed a decision in the ethics-related case against House Speaker Bobby Harrell on Friday, as onlookers around the state await a decision that could have far-reaching consequences beyond the case in question.

The State: HARRELL v. WILSON: Ethics complaint or possible criminality? Judge will take time to rule
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/02/3422925/harrell-v-wilson-ethics-complaint.html#storylink=cpy>
Saying "this decision is too important to shoot from the hip," Circuit Court Judge Casey Manning said he will take a week or more to rule whether the state Attorney General's office has jurisdiction over campaign spending complaints lodged against S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

Associated Press: SC legislators working on election law fix
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=IDaJALd3

Seanna Adcox

Both the House and Senate have passed a bill designed to prevent a lawsuit from throwing South Carolina's elections into chaos again. But their versions differ. A six-member panel appointed this week will try to reach a compromise on the legislation, which is aimed at creating a statewide model for county election boards.

S.C. Federal Delegation:

Associated Press: Boehner to appoint select Benghazi committee; S.C. Rep. Gowdy may chair it
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140502/PC16/140509875/1177/boehner-to-appoint-select-benghazi-committee-sc-rep-gowdy-may-chair-it>

Bradley Kapper

House Speaker John Boehner declared Friday he would create a select committee to investigate the Benghazi attack, providing Republicans with a high-profile forum to target the Obama administration's

credibility ahead of crucial midterm elections.

The State: Reports: Trey Gowdy to head Benghazi panel

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/02/3422958/reports-trey-gowdy-to-head-benghazi.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Appears that U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy will head a newly formed special committee to look at the 2012 terrorist attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. The Spartanburg Republican has been a critic of the Obama administration's response to the attack that killed four, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Huckabee endorses Campbell for lieutenant governor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/02/huckabee-endorses-campbell-lieutenant-governor/8605665/>

Ron Barnett

Former Arkansas Gov. and 2008 presidential candidate Mike Huckabee endorsed Mike Campbell for lieutenant governor this morning, saying Campbell's history as son of the late Gov. Carroll Campbell and experience as a businessman make him the best choice in the Republican field for the state's second-highest office.

Local News:

The State: One year into collections, Richland's penny program just getting started

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/02/3422691/one-year-into-collections-penny.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

But exactly one year since the county began collecting a penny-on-the-dollar sales tax for transportation, construction is just now getting started on an initial list of paving projects in rural areas – short stretches of little-used dirt roads, not big-ticket road projects affecting lots of people.

Rock Hill Herald: Contractor, county, owe Fort Mill school district \$114K for missed deadline

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/02/5926267/contractor-county-owe-fort-mill.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

York County will have to pay the Fort Mill School District \$114,900 after the county missed its May 1 deadline to complete a section of the Fort Mill Bypass. In October 2012, the district and county signed a contract that contained requirements for road construction and improvements on and near Doby's Bridge Road in Fort Mill around what was then called Elementary School #9.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: \$238,000 judgment awarded against 'food stamp fraudsters' in Spartanburg

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140502/ARTICLES/140509926/1083/ARTICLES?Title=-238-000-judgment-awarded-against-food-stamp-fraudsters-in-Spartanburg>

The U.S. District Court of S.C. awarded a judgment of more than \$238,000 against "food stamp fraudsters" who operated a Spartanburg convenience store, U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said in a written statement.

National News:

Associated Press: US gains 288k jobs; jobless rate falls to 6.3 percent

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140502/WIRE/140509952/1112?Title=Unemployment-rate-falls-to-lowest-level-since-2008>

Christopher S. Rugaber

U.S. employers added a robust 288,000 jobs in April, the most in two years, the strongest evidence to date that the economy is picking up after a brutal winter slowed growth. The Labor Department also said Friday that the unemployment rate sank to 6.3 percent, its lowest level since September 2008, from 6.7 percent in March.

Associated Press: Advocates see last window for immigration bill

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-02-15-43-34

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Erica Werner

Advocates for comprehensive immigration legislation see this summer as the last real window for Congress to act, and they're aiming to pressure the House GOP. If nothing happens by August, they say legislation will be dead for the year.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437