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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, May 23, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Index-Journal: Tom Bryson earns Order of the Silver Crescent

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/No-time-to-rest-16643071>

Matthew Hensley

Tom Bryson can never stay idle. Whether he is building homes in Greenwood through the local Habitat for Humanity, which he founded, or he's building churches in Brazil, Tom has spent his life using his hands and his faith to better the lives of others. Fourteen of Tom's friends and family members shared stories about his life, his faith and his skill as a craftsman Sunday before state Sen. Floyd Nicholson presented him the Order of the Silver Crescent, the state's highest civilian award for significant contributions and volunteerism within a region or community.

Note: Before presenting the award, Nicholson read from a letter sent by Gov Nikki Haley, saying, "It would be easy to point to specific accomplishments that merit the Order of the Silver Crescent, but in fact, your entire life has been marked by a level of achievement that brings enormous credit to you and your community. Your extensive involvement in civic affairs, including your leadership in improving the lives of individuals in Greenwood County through Habitat for Humanity and other projects. "You have been quite an inspiration to others and your contributions will have a lasting impact on our state for years to come."

Boston Herald: Michael Anderson: 'Extortion' cuts both ways

http://www.bostonherald.com/opinion/op_ed/2016/05/michael_anderson_extortion_cuts_both_ways

The U.S. Attorney's campaign to extend extortion law to labor disputes may have some unintended consequences. If Carmen Ortiz is right, she will have to bring the same indictments against management. The current indictments take the unprecedented step of defining nonunion status as a "property" right. The U.S. Attorney charges it as a federal crime to pressure anyone to give up that status. If that is correct, it must also follow that corporate officers who threaten workers to make them give up their labor rights are also guilty of criminal extortion.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley declared in 2011: "We are not going to allow unions to come into this state." That's a strong-arm threat if ever there was one.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Session countdown clock ticking

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160523/PC1603/160529758>

Maya T. Prabhu

As of early Monday morning, very few committee meetings are scheduled this week as state lawmakers head into the last six days of session and appear to be planning to spend most of their time on the floor. Legislators have what really is more like five days to get the state's business done due to judge elections and the unveiling of Clementa Pinckney's portrait in the Senate, with several bills left outstanding. Lawmakers have yet to pass bills tackling ethics reform, the budget and several other bills that have been called "high-profile."

Island Packet: Local senator blocks bill expanding open-records law

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article79175032.html>

Rebecca Lurye

A local senator's effort to quash a bill expanding the public's access to government records is getting a

workaround by others in the South Carolina General Assembly. A group of lawmakers in the S.C. House of Representatives, including Rep. Weston Newton, R-Beaufort, is hoping to get around Sen. Margie Bright Matthews, D-Walterboro, who single-handedly blocked a bill two months ago that would have created a new office within the Administrative Law Court to decide appeals when a public body refuses to release documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

LGBT Laws:

Times and Democrat: Father threatens to pull child from district due to transgender policy

http://thetandd.com/news/father-threatens-to-pull-child-from-district-due-to-transgender/article_9b45c086-b633-5d2b-bb47-5d8067bd1bea.html

Pansy Clayton

A parent let the Bamberg School District One Board of Trustees know at its May 16 meeting that he would pursue withdrawing his child from the district if it upholds the federal government's directive to public schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms matching their gender identity. Ken Ahlin spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting after the school officials addressed the district's new Student Gender and Orientation (JBAB) Policy. He said he needed to know where and who to talk to so he could pull his child from Bamberg School District One because he did not approve of his child being subjected to the new policy. Ahlin also asked if the policy came from the district or the state.

Charlotte Observer: City Council considers vote to repeal; activists call Charlotte Chamber 'anti-LGBT bully'

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article79173472.html>

Steve Harrison

As the Charlotte City Council prepares for a possible vote Monday on repealing its own nondiscrimination ordinance, the Human Rights Campaign has mounted an intense lobbying effort to keep it in place and has accused the Charlotte Chamber of being an "anti-LGBT bully." The Washington-based HRC, a gay rights group that helped the city write the language to extend the nondiscrimination ordinance to LGBT people, criticized the chamber for what it called lobbying of council members to support a compromise with Republican leaders in Raleigh.

Savannah River Site News:

Aiken Standard: DOE grant boosts local nuclear workforce through Community Reuse Organization

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160522/AIK0101/160529847>

Thomas Gardiner

A substantial grant was awarded to the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization last week, giving the community more than just a considerable boost in programming funds. The U.S. Department of Energy \$5 million grant was awarded for the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers program that is designed to attract students and prepare them for jobs in the nuclear workforce. It is a follow-on to a grant with the same goals that expires this year. "The grant is designed to fund various nuclear training programs administered by the five colleges and universities in our region to make certain that local folks are qualified for jobs at the Savannah River Site," said David Jameson, president and CEO of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce.

Aiken Standard: Special collars developed at SRS being used in animal research internationally

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160522/AIK0101/160529852>

Dede Biles

Special collars developed and tested at the Savannah River Site, or SRS, are being used to study animals in places where there have been nuclear disasters. On each collar is an instrument that functions as both a GPS unit and a dosimeter. The GPS unit allows researchers keep track of where an animal is, and the dosimeter measures the amount of radiation that the creature is being exposed to in its environment. Dr. Jim Beasley of the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and his associates worked with Mirion Technologies, which manufactures electronic dosimeters, and Vectronic Aerospace, a firm that specializes in wildlife GPS monitoring technology, to make the collars.

SC Agency News:

Herald-Journal: Upstate agencies work to find more foster homes

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160522/articles/160529886>

Zach Fox

A drastic shortage of foster homes across the Upstate is spurring efforts among multiple organizations in the state to boost recruitment. In Spartanburg County, there are about three foster children for every foster home available. The county has 406 foster children, but only 105 homes available. The situation isn't unique to Spartanburg. In Greenville County, the Department of Social Services reports there are only 206 foster homes available for 450 foster children. In an effort to address the foster home shortage, DSS recently partnered with six state colleges and universities, including USC Upstate.

SC Political News:

Times and Democrat: Superdelegate Cobb-Hunter has worries about campaign

http://thetandd.com/news/superdelegate-cobb-hunter-has-worries-about-campaign/article_4890a872-fdef-5f55-8ef8-a1f4e50870ad.html

John Mack

Orangeburg Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter is concerned about growing animosity in the Democratic Party presidential race. As an uncommitted superdelegate to the national convention, she will have a say in the race come this summer. Until then, she wants cooler heads to prevail. "I am very, very disturbed about the reported threats," Cobb-Hunter said regarding confrontations at the Nevada Democratic Party's state convention a week ago. "That crosses the line." The potential is there for the Nevada incident to damage the Democratic Party as a whole, she said. "We all just need to calm down."

SC Elections:

WIS: Breaking down elections process to fill vacant Richland County Council seat

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32036451/breaking-down-elections-process-to-fill-vacant-richland-county-council-seat>

Mike DeSumma

In less than two weeks, residents in parts of Lower Richland County will start the tall task of replacing one of their elected leaders. It was just a few months ago when Governor Nikki Haley vacated Kelvin Washington's seat. That came after Washington was charged with felony DUI for injuring two people in a crash. Since then five people have registered to fill Washington's empty seat during two different terms. This upcoming elections process will be anything but simple. It's helpful if you think of the process to fill Kelvin Washington's seat in two parts. One is a special fill the term election. Washington was supposed to be in office until the end of this year. The winner of this election will determine who fills those vacated months.

Greenville News: Fair, Edwards, Timmons seek Senate 6 GOP nomination

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/05/23/fair-edwards-timmons-seek-senate-6-gop-nomination/84559852/>

Amanda Coyne

Sen. Mike Fair has two Republican challengers for the Senate seat he's held for more than 20 years. On one side is Johnny Edwards, a former S.C. Department of Transportation chairman and businessman whose relationship with Fair goes back to facing off in high school football games in the 1960s. On the other is William Timmons, a former prosecutor in the 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office who now owns two companies and is a partner in two more. Timmons, 32, is younger than Fair's long career in public office, which has spanned 40 years. Edwards, 69, and Timmons differ greatly in age, but they are combating Fair with a similar message: After 20 years, Senate District 6 needs new blood. Though their messages are similar, the two businessmen's perspective differ.

The State: Lively makes change center of Midlands solicitor bid

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article79186842.html#storylink=apmobile>

Tim Flach

Candice Lively is running for chief prosecutor in Lexington County and nearby areas as a political outsider with an insider's experience. Lively, a former assistant prosecutor in the Grand Strand, is making change her main message as she tries to win a match against two challengers who once were aides to retiring Solicitor Donnie Myers. Her criticisms of the way the four-county 11th Circuit office is run sometimes are subtle. But they signify a new style that could set her apart from the other Republicans vying to take charge of criminal convictions in the Lexington County-based circuit. No Democrats have filed in the June 14 primary races.

The State: 2 state senators face primary challenges in Richland

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article79212207.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

The former teacher and principal said giving educators a seat at the table is why she is among three candidates running in the June 14 primary for fellow Democrat Mia McLeod's up-for-grabs S.C. House seat. Elkins is running against pastor and chiropractor Ivory Thigpen and attorney Vannie Williams Jr. for the seat, which McLeod will leave as she tries to leap to the state Senate. Elsewhere in Richland County, four Democratic lawmakers and one Republican House member have challengers in the June 14 primary. Among them, state Sen. John Scott, D-Richland, faces opposition from Richland County Council Chairman Torrey Rush, and state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, hopes to ward off a second challenge from political activist Wendy Brawley.

Opinion/Editorial:

Bluffton Today: Congressman Sanford receives high marks

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-opinion/2016-05-22/congressman-sanford-receives-high-marks>

Opinion: Joseph S. Iaco

Congressman Sanford receives high marks It caught my eye last week that Rep. Mark Sanford scored the highest in the delegation based on his votes related to reining in government and spurring economic growth from the Club for Growth. What also caught my eye is the fact that his opponent got an "F" from that same organization in the Statehouse. It's one thing to say you're going to vote with the taxpayer in mind; it is quite another when a politician actually does so. And for that, I'd just like to say thank you, thank you for doing what you said you would do when we elected you.

South Carolina News:

Morning News: Seven months after devastating floods, there's a lot of recovery left

http://www.scnw.com/news/local/article_6340b42a-2061-11e6-8ac9-17cc894a2cd9.html

Deborah Swearingen

Last October, hours before floods devastated parts of South Carolina, Connie Parrott tidied her laundry room, next to her small, gray home on First Neck Road in Johnsonville. As she picked up the piles of clothes strewn about the floor, she considered the chance of flood to be slight. It wasn't that she missed the flood warnings. It was that she had heard them before. "You know, we had floods before. And so when they was hollering flood, I didn't really think much of it," Parrott said. "But then part of me did. That's why I went in the laundry room, and I picked up everything out of that laundry room. 'Cause they said it was a bad flood."

Local News:

Associated Press: Coroner: Body found in South Carolina marsh is missing woman

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YYB4DXkT

SC State Wire

Authorities have confirmed that a body found in a marsh on James Island over the weekend is that of an 80-

year-old woman who disappeared a day earlier. Charleston County Deputy Coroner Brittney Martin tells local media outlets that the body of Marie Duddy of James Island was found Saturday night. Authorities made the discovery just hours after a 20-hour search was called off.

Associated Press: SC man dies in hospital after 15-hour standoff with deputies

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Aj2l3aqq

SC State Wire

A South Carolina man is dead after a 15-hour standoff ends in gunfire. The Florence County Sheriff's Office is investigating the officer-involved shooting and SWAT situation that ended Saturday afternoon. The man was barricaded inside a home outside of Chesterfield and authorities say he shot at deputies multiple times during negotiations.

Associated Press: Lawsuit: Bar overserved motorcyclist, led to friend's death

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ny6AhHht

SC State Wire

A Columbia bar has been accused of serving so much alcohol to one of its underage patrons that he became extremely intoxicated and crashed his motorcycle, killing a 19-year-old woman who was riding with him. The State of Columbia (<http://bit.ly/1WbRjlb>) reported Saturday that the father of crash victim Caitlin Clark has filed a lawsuit against the Tin Roof bar. The lawsuit says 20-year-old James Gainey Jr. drank heavily at the bar on the night of Aug. 7 and continued drinking until about 1 a.m. on Aug. 8. Gainey then left the bar on his motorcycle, picked up Clark and then crashed the motorcycle, killing Clark.

The Herald: Lancaster Fatherhood Project expanding to Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article79217117.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Durrell Douglas was 18, just out of high school and father to a newborn son. "I didn't know what to do," said Douglas, now 27. Douglas said his father referred him to the Lancaster Fatherhood Project, a nonprofit started in 1999 that helps strengthen families by encouraging fathers to overcome barriers to being a responsible and involved parent. He completed the six-month program, during which he learned, among other things, how to be better involved in his son's life, communicate better with his son's mother and apply for jobs and prepare for interviews.

Associated Press: Welcome Inn: College of Charleston buys \$3.2 million inn

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

SC State Wire

The College of Charleston has purchased a more-than 200-year-old inn in Charleston's historic district. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1Wcgp3t>) the school recently paid \$3.2 million for the 10-room King George IV Inn which dates to about 1790. College spokesman Mike Robertson says the purchase gives the college a central place to house campus guests, such as speakers and others. It will also free up space on campus that is now used for guest housing.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston buys historic inn for \$3.2M

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160523/PC05/160529958>

The College of Charleston now owns a 225-year-old inn near its campus, but it won't be used for commercial purposes anymore. Earlier this month, the college paid \$3.2 million for the 10-room King George IV Inn at 32 George St. The four-story property sits between King and Meeting streets in the heart of downtown Charleston. The inn will continue to be used as lodging for the college, "but not in a commercial environment," spokesman Mike Robertson said.

Associated Press: Residents oppose new Charleston cruise ship terminal plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DoyjQw8T

SC State Wire

The vast majority of public comments submitted about a proposed cruise ship terminal at Charleston's Union

Pier have either called for the plan to be scrapped or argued that the passenger terminal should be moved away from the Historic District. The Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/27Pv5cB>) reports that 105 of the 125 letters sent recently to the Army Corps of Engineers were against the State Ports Authority's plan to build a new terminal at Union Pier. The terminal would replace a nearby 1970s-era facility that handles passengers mostly for Carnival Cruise Lines.

Post and Courier: Letters show overwhelming opposition to new cruise ship terminal in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160522/PC05/160529884>

David Wren

The verdict is in: Most Charleston-area residents don't want the State Ports Authority to build a new cruise ship terminal at Union Pier. At least that's the majority opinion of those who took the time to send written comments to the Army Corps of Engineers, which will decide whether the SPA gets a federal permit allowing it to proceed with the \$35 million project. The Army Corps solicited comments about the proposal during and after a public hearing on the SPA's permit application last month. Of the 125 letters that expressed an opinion, all but 20 state the passenger terminal should be moved to another location away from the Historic District or scrapped all together.

Post and Courier: BMW's South Carolina plant marks new manufacturing milestone

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160519/PC05/160519339>

John McDermott

BMW Manufacturing has produced the 3.5 millionth automobile at its South Carolina plant. The mineral white BMW X4 xDrive20i will be shipped through the Port of Charleston to a customer in Fuyang, China, about seven hours west of Shanghai, the luxury automaker said last week. BMW is investing \$1 billion to expand the Greer plant, which produces the X3, X4, X5 and X6 models.

Independent Mail: Anderson unemployment rate sinks to 4.7 percent

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/anderson-unemployment-rate-sinks-to-47-percent-3375d8ab-e0e0-5a9c-e053-0100007f2a82-380428871.html?d=mobile>

Abe Hardesty

The April employment picture in the Anderson area remained among the brightest in South Carolina. Unemployment rates in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties are among the state's 15 lowest, according to figures released by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. Anderson County ended the month with a 4.7-percent unemployment rate, down from 5.2 percent a month earlier and well below the 5.3 percent rate of a year earlier. Only six of the state's 46 counties — Lexington (4.3 percent), Charleston (4.3), Greenville (4.4), Newberry (4.6) and Jasper (4.6) — ended the month with a lower rate.

Post and Courier: Good morning sunshine: Many Charleston schools could start earlier in fall

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160522/PC16/160529877>

Paul Bowers

Some Charleston County families will have to start their morning routines a little earlier this fall if the school district approves new start times that would affect 61 schools and programs. Seeking to fix chronically late bus routes in some areas, the district's most recent proposal would make 37 schools open five to 65 minutes earlier. In Mount Pleasant, every elementary school would start at least 10 minutes earlier. In North Charleston, most elementary schools would change their start time from 7:30 to 7:25 a.m. District-wide magnet schools, which have always presented a transportation challenge, would all start the day at 8:30 a.m.

National News:

Associated Press: Verdict expected in Freddie Gray-officer trial in Baltimore

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a14ffc92f6fc444db3e4ea27ed7ceb8b>

Juliet Linderman

A judge is expected Monday to hand down his verdict in the case of a Baltimore police officer charged in the arrest and subsequent death of Freddie Gray. Officer Edward Nero faces assault, misconduct in office and

reckless endangerment charges. Prosecutors say the 30-year-old unlawfully arrested Gray without probable cause and was negligent when he didn't buckle the prisoner into a seat belt.

Associated Press: Obama lifts decades-old arms ban in his 1st visit to Vietnam

<http://bigstory.ap.org/c161981884064ca3a8d35c26cbd045d4>

Foster Klug

U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday lifted a half-century-old ban on selling arms to Vietnam, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner in a region that he has tried to place at the center of his foreign policy legacy. Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference where he vowed to leave behind the troubled history between the former war enemies and embrace a new era with a young, increasingly prosperous nation. Obama steered clear of harsh condemnation of what critics see as Vietnam's abysmal treatment of dissidents, describing instead modest progress on rights in the one-party state. Activists said his decision to lift the embargo destroyed the best U.S. leverage for pushing Vietnam on abuse.

Associated Press: Obama: Taliban leader's death a 'milestone' for Afghan peace

<http://bigstory.ap.org/5a9e84068c034802a04330f76453cd8f>

Nancy Benac

President Barack Obama said Monday that the violent death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour by a U.S. airstrike should send a "clear signal" to anti-American extremists that "we're going to protect our people." Obama also said Mansour's death was an "important milestone" in the yearslong effort to bring peace to Afghanistan.

World News:

Associated Press: Hospitals a deadly target in Middle East conflicts

<http://bigstory.ap.org/3ffa86762d5b4bcab9039fb9261dff60>

Sarah El Deeb and Maria Danilova

As one of the few pediatricians remaining in the Syrian city of Aleppo, Dr. Mohammed Wassim Maaz offered hope to tens of thousands of children and their parents trapped in the horror and misery of the five-year civil war. But last month, an airstrike widely believed to have been carried out by the Syrian government destroyed the al Quds hospital where he worked, killing Maaz and dozens of colleagues, patients and other civilians. The April 27 strike was the latest of thousands of attacks in recent years on medical facilities in conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere that have killed hundreds in brazen violation of humanitarian norms. Facilities have been struck in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan.

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