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To:
Date: 6/1/2014 10:07:39 AM
Subject: Clips – Sunday, June 1, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Five issues to watch in Legislature's (almost) final week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC1603/140609970/1382/five-issues-to-watch-in-legislatures-almost-final-week>

Jeremy Borden

The last three days of the Legislature's six-month session begin Tuesday - until lawmakers are reconvened for vetoes or perhaps other languishing matters June 17. Regardless, the General Assembly still has plenty of pressing matters to deal with if they intend to pass them.

Note: There are many points of agreement, including new funding for K-12 education pushed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: Ethics reform. The Senate and House have struggled with measures for reform even as Gov. Nikki Haley has pushed for it.

The State: The Buzz: SC road repair bill could crash, die

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/31/3479823/the-buzz-sc-road-repair-bill-could.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

S.C. lawmakers don't have much time left to get their work done – three days. They have yet to pass a budget for the state's fiscal year that starts July 1, an item that will take priority when it hits the floor of the S. C. House and state Senate early this week.

Note: That's despite the May addition of \$86 million to the state's budget due to higher-than-expected revenue, funds that Gov. Nikki Haley calls the "money tree" and says should be used for roads.

Island Packet: Beaufort County brewers bubbling with joy over craft-beer bill

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/31/3139380/beaufort-county-brewers-bubbling.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Dan Burley

Two Lowcountry beer makers say a measure that would loosen restrictions on South Carolina craft-beer businesses could have a significant effect on Beaufort County's suds scene. The legislation, aimed at making the state a destination for beer aficionados, would remove brewers' production limits.

Note: Supporters of the bill, which is awaiting Gov. Nikki Haley's signature, hope it will help attract a West Coast brewery's multimillion-dollar investment.

Sun News: Memorial Day violence prompts cancellations, threatens tourism

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/31/4260701/memorial-day-violence-prompts.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Bryant

It looked like a typical early summer day in Myrtle Beach. Visitors – some pushing baby strollers, others bikini-clad right off the beach – strolled Ocean Boulevard on Friday, the heart of the city's tourism industry, as family vans, trucks, cars and motorcycles cruised by.

Note: Thousands were along the Grand Strand that weekend for Atlantic Beach Bikefest, which Gov. Nikki Haley said on Friday must end because of the violence and the threat it caused to residents' safety, as well as to tourism.

Aiken Standard: School tax option remains on table

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140601/AIK0101/140539881/0/SEARCH&slid=1>

Rob Novit

A bill that could give Aiken County voters the option of approving a one-cent sales tax increase for school construction still isn't a done deal yet, although two Aiken County House members remain confident.

Note: A committee will be comprised of three House and three Senate members to try and work things out and move the bill to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature.

The State: 'Sins of fathers' threaten to sink S.C. State

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/31/3479858/sins-of-fathers-threaten-to-sink.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Did legislative leaders who say they want to save financially struggling S.C. State University cripple the state's only historically black public college with deep funding cuts during the Great Recession? That's what some trustees think at the cash-strapped, 3,100-student Orangeburg school.

Associated Press: Haley recognizes State Guard, hurricane season

http://thetandd.com/news/state-and-regional/haley-recognizes-state-guard-hurricane-season/article_0d826530-023d-5efc-a9e1-930abcd89b21.html

South Carolina's State Guard is being recognized as hurricane season begins. Gov. Nikki Haley has designated this week as "South Carolina State Guard Week." The Guard plays a role when the state is threatened by natural or man-made disasters. The 2014 Atlantic hurricane season begins Sunday and runs through the end of November.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Graham's GOP foes hope to force runoff

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/31/grahams-gop-foes-hope-force-runoff/9825669/>

Rudolph Bell

South Carolina has seen its share of battles in the civil war between the Republican Party's establishment and tea party factions. Nowhere, however, has the struggle been more intense than in the June 10 primary for the U.S. Senate seat now occupied by Lindsey Graham.

Note: It might have been easier in 2010, when a tea party wave swept away longtime officeholders and lifted new faces into power, including Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: Sen. Lindsey Graham explains game plan for primary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140531/PC16/140539862/1382/sen-lindsey-graham-explains-game-plan-for-primary>

Katie West

"I hate what Obama's doing to the country, but if we don't win, it's just all talk. I can win," U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham told supporters Saturday morning in Goose Creek, laying out his plans for immigration, health care and economic reforms.

Anderson Independent: Survey finds GOP voters don't know date of S.C. primary

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/31/campaign-notes-survey-finds-gop-voters-dont-know/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown, Nikie Mayo

Most Republican voters questioned in a recent survey were clueless about the date of South Carolina's upcoming primary. It's June 10. When a research firm recently interviewed 600 self-identified GOP primary voters, the firm found that nearly 60 percent of Republicans "will not even hazard a guess" as to when the primary is being held.

Aiken Standard: Race to the primary: S.C. House District 84

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140601/AIK0101/140539885/1004/race-to-the-primary-sc-house-district-84>

Michael Ulmer

Four Republican candidates and one Democratic candidate are running to represent S.C. House District 84, currently held by Roland Smith, who is set to retire when his term expires in January.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Failing exit exam no reason not to walk

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/06/01/3140193/failing-exit-exam-no-reason-not.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Put in a difficult spot, the Beaufort County School District made the right decision to allow about 30 high school seniors who have met all graduation requirements -- except passage of the state's exit exam -- to march in graduation ceremonies this spring.

Note: The problem started several weeks ago when Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a bill eliminating the requirement that S.C. students pass the exit exam, officially known as the High School Assessment Program.

Rock Hill Herald: State ethics bill is too weak

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/31/6013476/state-ethics-bill-is-too-weak.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

State lawmakers appear willing to pass a watered-down ethics reform bill that continues to allow legislators to police themselves. We question whether a bill that doesn't contain a provision for an independent oversight commission composed of non-legislators is even worth passing.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has invested heavily in the issue, making passage of ethics reform a big plank in her re-election platform.

Post and Courier: Beat the legislative clock

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140531/PC1002/140539856/1021/>

Editorial

The General Assembly has approved legislation naming the mammoth the official state fossil and barbecue as South Carolina's official picnic cuisine. But there is still much to be done as the Legislature moves into the last week of the session.

Index-Journal: Senator's legislative kill not a fairly good move

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Senator-s-legislative-kill-not-a-fairly-good-move/8/154/25815>

Editorial

There is perhaps a certain irony to a certain state senator's name, considering what he single-handedly did to a piece of legislation last week. Greenville Republican Sen. Mike Fair placed a procedural hold on a bill that would have improved and updated the state's sex education curriculum.

The State: Is the ethics bill worth passing? It depends

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/31/3476731/scope-is-the-ethics-bill-worth.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

AFTER more than two years of public hearings and politicians' promises and private and public debates, the ethics reform bill is in conference committee, where three representatives and three senators will negotiate the difference between the House and Senate plans.

The State: Ending SC legislators' immunity from prosecution highly unlikely but still technically possible

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/06/01/3476728/editorial-ending-sc-legislators.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

With just three days left in the regular session, and no action thus far from the House or Senate, it is no longer possible for the Legislature to pass a stand-alone bill this year to make it clear that the attorney general doesn't have to get legislators' permission to prosecute them for profiting from their offices.

Post and Courier: A needed chance to analyze tourism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140531/PC1002/140539855/1021/lighten-the-tourism-load>

Editorial

As the city of Charleston moves to slow the growth of tourism, at least for a while, the question many people are asking is whether the proverbial carriage horse has already left the barn. They're hoping that they are wrong and that it isn't too late to repair damage already done to residents' quality of life.

Greenville News: County needs sales tax for roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/05/31/editorial-county-needs-sales-tax-roads/9790021/>

Editorial

Greenville County Council is on the verge of approving a referendum for a much-needed 1 percent temporary sales tax that would be used to help maintain and improve infrastructure throughout the county.

The proposal comes up for its third and final reading on Tuesday, and if it passes will then move on to the voters in the November election.

Post and Courier: BAR has lost touch with residents

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140531/PC1002/140539858/1021/>

Editorial

As the public gears up for the 2015 mayoral race, we would like to bring to your attention a situation that has not been addressed by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) that we believe is ripe for public debate.

Legislative Session News:

Anderson Independent: S.C. legislators approve elections fix

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/31/sc-legislators-approve-elections-fix/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The General Assembly has given final approval to a measure that is intended to address constitutional concerns involving elections and voter registration boards in counties throughout South Carolina. The legislation creates a unified elections and voter registration board in each of the state's 46 counties.

South Carolina News:

The State: Veterans commemorate D-Day with return trip to beaches where they fought as young men

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/31/3479885/veterans-commemorate-d-day-with.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Leif Maseng found himself waist deep in a flooded field in France in the middle of the night. He was alone, scared and far from where he was supposed to be. The 18-year-old paratrooper from Chicago was in the 82nd Airborne Division.

Post and Courier: Great Recession shows itself in South Carolina property reassessments, with unexpected results

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC16/140609958/1382/great-recession-shows-itself-in-south-carolina-property-reassessments-with-unexpected-results>

David Slade

When South Carolina dramatically changed the way properties are taxed in 2006, a hallmark of the legislation was a cap limiting how much a property's taxable value can rise during county-wide reassessments.

Associated Press: SC public can help gauge damage this storm season

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

Bruce Smith

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has developed programs allowing people to provide photos and other information about both storm damage and unusually high tides from their smartphones, tablets or computers.

Local News:

Times and Democrat: Chairman: Orangeburg County needs tax increase

http://thetandd.com/news/local/chairman-orangeburg-county-needs-tax-increase/article_99e4550e-e93b-11e3-add1-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

A tax increase is inevitable as Orangeburg County seeks to fulfill requests for more services, including law enforcement, Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright says. Orangeburg County Council has given first reading, by title only, to the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget.

Post and Courier: Employment and manufacturing returning to Colleton County

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC05/140609978/1382/employment-and-manufacturing-returning-to-colleton-county>

Tyrone Richardson

For several months, Brian Tennyson had no success finding a job in the Lowcountry to match his two decades as a military aviation mechanic. The search recently ended for the 50-year-old veteran and

Smoaks resident.

Post and Courier: Gang activity in Myrtle Beach triple homicide sparks closer look at Charleston County groups

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC16/140609936/1382/gang-activity-in-myrtle-beach-triple-homicide-sparks-closer-look-at-charleston-county-groups>

Andrew Knapp

Days before Christmas 2012, Keith Alextruss Williams showed up at the Game Room, a Ladson nightclub. Deputies knew him to have ties to "Town of Lincolnville," or TOL, a local gang. He partied alongside Nathaniel Nelson Green, a rap singer from the town. Officers knew of Green, too.

Post and Courier: Berkeley County impact fee hasn't brought in funds expected

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC16/140609954/1382/berkeley-county-impact-fee-hasnt-brought-in-funds-expected>

Brenda Rindge

Margaret Dunbar cashed out her retirement fund last year to open a new business in the fast-growing corridor of U.S. Highway 176 in rural Berkeley County. She aimed for a mid-August opening for her franchise of Ladles, an eatery that serves homemade soups, salads and sandwiches, in a 1,200-square-foot space in The Market at Cane Bay.

Post and Courier: Here's how a property can lose value, but end up with a higher tax assessment

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140601/PC16/140609931/1382/heres-how-a-property-can-lose-value-but-end-up-with-a-higher-tax-assessment>

David Slade

The 15 percent cap on property assessment increases was a key part of the 2006 law changes in South Carolina property taxation, but the cap is not a limit on taxes. The cap restricts how much a property's taxable value, or assessment, can be increased when counties reassess every five years.

National News:

Associated Press: Rice helping Obama juggle foreign policy crises

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Ba101UAK

Julie Pace

Once seemingly destined to become secretary of state, Susan Rice now holds a lower-profile job at the White House, juggling global crises for the president and trying to ensure his foreign policy priorities don't fall by the wayside in a storm of overseas problems.

New York Times: Veterans' Crisis Put Obama on the Defensive as Others Failed to Do

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/31/us/politics/veterans-crisis-put-obama-on-the-defensive-as-others-failed-to-do.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0

Peter Baker

This time, President Obama did not wait. Confronted by reports of mismanagement and besieged by members of his own party, he gave in to the pressure and performed the sort of ritual Washington sacrifice he has resisted in other times of crisis over the last five years.

New York Times: In Obama's Speeches, a Shifting Tone on Terror

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/01/world/americas/in-obamas-speeches-a-shifting-tone-on-terror.html?ref=todayspaper>

Mark Landler

Few leaders place more weight than President Obama on the power of the spoken word to clarify a messy world. But after five and a half years and dozens of speeches — most recently at West Point last week — the trail of Mr. Obama's pronouncements has grown muddier.

Brian Symmes

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