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Subject: Clips – Saturday, May 24, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Haley: Let high school seniors walk with class – regardless of exit exam
<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/23/5993333/haley-let-high-school-seniors.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley is urging officials across South Carolina to let seniors participate in graduation ceremonies if the only thing blocking their walk down the aisle is the state exit exam. Haley noted in a letter to district superintendents and school board members that a law she signed last month ends the 3-decade-old requirement that high school students pass an exit exam to graduate.

Note: “It has come to my attention that the combination of individual district policy and the timing of this act has resulted in some members of the Class of 2014 being excluded from their graduation ceremony, despite the fact that they are members of the Class of 2014 and, under this new law, will receive their diplomas this year,” she wrote in her letter released late Friday.

Times and Democrat: Haley encourages OPS grads to follow their convictions

http://thetandd.com/news/local/haley-encourages-ops-grads-to-follow-their-convictions/article_90c0e122-e305-11e3-b722-001a4bcf887a.html

Martha Rose Brown

It's been 25 years since Nikki Haley graduated from Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. On Friday night, the governor returned to deliver the commencement speech at her alma mater. “It is great to be home, I’ve just got to tell you,” Haley said. “It’s a little bizarre.”

Note: And about Orangeburg, Haley called it an “amazing community.”

Note: “Rural South Carolina is an amazing place. This is where you learn about faith and family. This is where you learn about friends,” she added.

The State: SC ethics reform likely will not include independent oversight of legislators

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464408/sc-ethics-reform-likely-will-not.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

After 11/2 years of talk, an ethics reform bill could squeak out of the State House just before lawmakers go home next month. But it likely will not include the independent oversight of legislators sought by government-reform advocates and Gov. Nikki Haley.

Note: “Requiring income disclosure is a good start and positive step forward, but, as we have said all along, truly comprehensive ethics reform means no more legislators investigating legislators,” Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said Friday. “And we won’t stop fighting until the people of the state have the accountable state government that serves them, not the other way around.”

The State: In carrot vs stick approach, carrot winning in SC food stamp program

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464286/food-stamp-incentives-more-likely.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

In the carrot vs. stick approach for improving the impact of the food stamp program, the carrot appears to be winning in South Carolina. A pilot program approved by the state Legislature last year to double the value of food stamps used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets is expected to be up and running this summer.

Note: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley last year encouraged the Department of Social Services, which manages the food stamp program in the state, to come up with a waiver request as part of the state’s anti-obesity effort.

Anderson Independent: Irish company announces plans to bring U.S. plant, 250 jobs to Anderson

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/23/irish-company-announces-plans-to-bring-us->

[plant/?partner=RSS](#)

Nikie Mayo

An Irish manufacturer of switchgears and power-distribution products plans to invest \$17 million to establish its first U.S. plant in Anderson County. E&I Engineering Ltd. plans to create 250 jobs in the Upstate in the next five years.

Note: "We welcome E&I Engineering as they join the ranks of the hundreds of foreign-based firms that have come to our state and found success here," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a prepared statement.

Greenville News: Irish company to open Anderson plant

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/23/irish-company-open-anderson-plant/9528751/>

E&I Engineering, Ltd. plans to create 250 jobs over the next five years as it invests \$17 million to locate its first U.S. operations in Anderson County, state officials said Friday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said, "We welcome E&I Engineering as they join the ranks of the hundreds of foreign-based firms that have come to our state and found success here."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Haley announces veterans coalition

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464386/haley-announces-veterans-coalition.html>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley announced Friday a coalition of veterans who say the Lexington Republican understands the issues facing the military and their families in her re-election bid, the campaign said. Haley's camp said the governor has worked on a program between the S.C. National Guard and the state Department of Employment and Workforce to help veterans find jobs and that the veteran unemployment rate in the state has fallen during her tenure.

Greenville News: 2 GOP Senate hopefuls skipped primary

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/23/gop-senate-hopefuls-skipped-primary/9527615/>

Rudolph Bell

Two of the seven Republicans running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Lindsey Graham — Det Bowers and Nancy Mace — didn't vote in South Carolina's last Republican presidential primary in 2012. Bowers said he didn't vote that year because he was working as a Christian pastor and didn't want to send the wrong message to his congregants.

Associated Press: Lieutenant governor candidates release fundraising totals, ads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140523/PC1610/140529682/1031/lieutenant-governor-candidates-release-fundraising-totals-ads>

Seanna Adcox

Henry McMaster's campaign for lieutenant governor reported nearly \$103,000 available to spend Friday, just 18 days before voters head to the polls. McMaster's pre-election disclosure report shows he has raised more than \$225,400 since March 31, with 93 percent of those donations coming from South Carolinians. Campaign manager Jeff Taillon says fundraising continues.

The State: 2 Republicans line up for SC adjutant general race

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464277/2-republicans-line-up-for-sc-adjutant.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Ellis

James Breazeale is challenging fellow Republican and incumbent Bob Livingston to be chief administrator of the state's 11,000-member Military Department, which includes the South Carolina Army and Air National Guards, Emergency Management Division and State Guard. The adjutant general serves a four-year term and is paid \$92,000.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Clean house at the VA

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140524/PC1002/140529582/1021/clean-house-at-the-va>

Editorial

Then again, Mr. Obama has always talked a good game on health care for veterans. But the still-emerging

VA scandal's side-effects go far beyond the justifiably negative public-relations fallout facing this particular president. It's a national disgrace that transcends politics.

The State (Guest Column): We need qualified, professional social workers in public child welfare
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3461883/mcclerklin-motley-we-need-qualified.html?sp=/99/168/#storylink=cpy>

Shirley McClerklin-Motley

South Carolina must seek answers to the question "Who are the best people to be our state's front-line child welfare staff and supervisors?" According to the Child Welfare League of America, child welfare is a field that the public most readily identifies as a social work domain.

Legislative Session News:

MSNBC: Three states make major moves on medicinal marijuana oil

<http://www.msnbc.com/hardball/medical-marijuana-gets-positive-boost>

Lisa Crivelli

Legalizing medicinal marijuana oil got a positive boost from three states this week. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad announced Friday she will sign into law a bill that would decriminalize the possession of marijuana oil in the state.

Note: Meanwhile, the South Carolina General Assembly passed the state's medicinal marijuana extract bill on Thursday. The legislation now heads to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's desk, where she has five days to sign it into law. Parents who helped push the legislation feel confident she will do so.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Graham votes for MOX after House passes bill

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140524/AIK0101/140529709/1004/graham-votes-for-mox-after-house-passes-bill>

Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., continued his support of the Savannah River Site's MOX project by voting in support of the National Defense Authorization Act. His vote came on Thursday afternoon, just hours after the United States House passed the bill.

Rock Hill Herald: Mulvaney attends town hall-style NAACP forum in Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/22/5990701/mulvaney-attends-local-naacp-forum.html#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

Despite ideological differences, members of a local minority rights group and a tea party favorite Republican agreed on one thing during a Thursday night forum – the need for better and faster medical care for veterans.

South Carolina News:

WLTX: Intensive Supervision Program Drastically Reducing Repeat Crimes

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/05/23/program-crimes-repeat-9513671/>

Robert Kittle

A new way of keeping tabs on young criminals after they're released from South Carolina prisons has drastically reduced the number of new crimes they commit. The Intensive Supervision program has reduced the recidivism rate from 57 percent to 4.7 percent for youthful offenders.

Island Packet: State superintendent's visit to ACE derailed

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464075/state-superintendents-visit-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

An "insulted" State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais said it "wasn't worth his time to visit" the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence after two administrators there didn't show up for a scheduled meeting Thursday.

Local News:

The State: Oceanfront land values drop behind Debordieu seawall

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/23/3464295/oceanfront-land-values-drop-behind.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

High-end beach homes long coveted for their proximity to the ocean have dropped in value in an upscale resort community with a wave-battered seawall and an eroding beach near Georgetown. About two dozen houses behind the seawall at Debordieu Beach were valued at \$46 million five years ago, but their worth had dropped to \$34 million by 2013, according to property records reviewed by The State newspaper.

Greenville News: Need softens anti-tax sentiment

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/23/need-softens-anti-tax-sentiment/9527807/>

Eric Connor

For two decades, the city of Greenville and Greenville County elected leaders have boasted about their streak of not voting to raise taxes — a reflection of South Carolina's longstanding aversion to the role of government.

Greenville News: Monthly home sales flat in Upstate

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/24/monthly-home-sales-flat-upstate/9529427/>

Angelia Davis

The National Association of Realtors said that existing home sales, or the total completed transactions for single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, nudged up 1.3 percent in April from March, but are 6.8 percent below the level in April 2013.

National News:

Wall Street Journal: Kerry Agrees to Appear Before House Panel on Benghazi

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303749904579580284178106654?mg=reno64-wsj>

Michael R. Crittenden

Secretary of State John Kerry has agreed to appear before a House panel investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, a move department officials said should eliminate any need for him to also appear before a recently created select committee.

Associated Press: Poll: health care law still fails to impress

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_OVERHAUL_POLL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-23-16-33-08

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

President Barack Obama celebrated when sign-ups for his health care law topped 8 million, far exceeding expectations after a slipshod launch. Most Americans, however, remain unimpressed. A new Associated Press-GfK poll finds that public opinion continues to run deeply negative on the Affordable Care Act, Obama's signature effort to cover the uninsured.

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