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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, May 1, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Budget and Control Board approves SCSU loan

http://thetandd.com/news/budget-and-control-board-approves-scsu-loan/article_e82a8976-d078-11e3-b92f-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University will receive a \$6 million “Band-Aid” to handle its most pressing financial needs, but it’s still unclear if lawmakers will provide all the help requested.

Note: Haley said the State Inspector General and his staff thoroughly investigated S.C. State and prepared a report. “If you read the draft, we can’t say we don’t know what’s going on in that school. It is very clear, written in that draft what is going on in that school,” she said.

The State: SC State gets \$6 million -- to ‘tread water’

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419340/sc-state-gets-6-million-to-tread.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. State University got a promise of a \$6 million state loan to help stabilize its finances Wednesday, but the college still needs additional help to cover the rest of its \$13.6 million deficit.

Note: “We can’t leave the school alone to figure this out,” said Haley, a Lexington Republican. “We have to be part of the solution.”

Note: But waiting, as Leatherman suggested, could further hurt S.C. State’s enrollment, Haley said. “What parent would send their child to a school that the state won’t give them money to pay their bills?”

Post and Courier: \$2 million and fewer than 6 months needed to build new bridge on Cypress Gardens Road

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140430/PC16/140439932/1177/-2-million-and-fewer-than-6-months-needed-to-build-new-bridge-on-cypress-gardens-road>

Andrew Knapp

Work crews will need about \$2 million and fewer than six months to replace the 110-foot bridge destroyed in a train derailment earlier this week near Moncks Corner, the state said Wednesday. Gov. Nikki Haley's emergency declaration in the wake of the collapse of Cypress Gardens Road will help the state get federal money for the project.

Note: Haley signed the declaration Tuesday afternoon that is meant to free up emergency funds from the Federal Highway Administration.

Emma’s Law Bill Signing:

WOLO: ‘Emma’s Law’ Signed by the Governor

<http://www.abccolumbia.com/news/local/Emmas-Law-Signed-by-the-Governor-257416791.html>

Monique Williams

More than two years after Emma Longstreet dies in a drunk driving car crash, her parents witness the governor sign a law in the child’s honor. Not ever in this state has a sitting governor signed DUI legislation as tough as Emma’s Law, as Governor Nikki Haley did Wednesday afternoon.

Note: “Emma is smiling down because she has done more in her little life than we could’ve ever thought would happen in South Carolina,” said Haley.

WACH: Gov. Haley holds signing ceremony for Emma’s Law

<http://www.wach.com/news/story.aspx?id=1037915#.U2IzHvIdWS0>

India Hill

A signing ceremony was held today for Emma’s Law, a law requiring more people convicted of driving under

the influence to install a device that won't let their vehicles start if the drivers have been drinking.

Note: "This is a bill that should be important to every parent in South Carolina," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "We're here today to do one of the most important things we can do – to protect our children. After a long fight by all of the people with us today, we can finally say that the bill has passed and the roads in South Carolina are safer because of it."

WCIV: Ceremonial signing held Wednesday for Emma's Law

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/25396055/ceremonial-signing-held-wednesday-for-emmas-law>

Gov. Nikki Haley says a new DUI law will send a message to drunken drivers. The recently passed Emma's Law required an interlocking ignition system for repeat DUI offenders.

Note: "I looked at her and I said, 'Why?' Because I didn't want it, because it's too painful. And she said, 'Because I can't let you forget,'" said Haley.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

SCRN: Sheheen takes aim at DSS director in race against Haley

<http://www.southcarolinaradionetwork.com/2014/04/30/sheheen-takes-aim-at-dss-director-in-race-against-haley/>

Ashley Byrd

Democratic candidate for governor Vincent Sheheen has stepped up his criticism of Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller, calling once again for her to step down.

Note: "There isn't a tragedy sad enough that he won't try to score political points with – and it's a real shame that Vince Sheheen wants to politicize an innocent child's death," Haley campaign spokesman Rob Godfrey said in a statement to the State Newspaper.

McClatchy DC: Graham spends \$1M on ad buys

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/30/graham-spends-m-ad-buys/8547299/>

Mary Troyan

Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign has spent more on advertising this year than the amount of money raised by all six of his challengers combined, new campaign finance reports show.

McClatchy DC: Graham challengers getting no national tea party support

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/01/3419306/graham-challengers-getting-no.html#storylink=cpy>

Mary Troyan

Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign has spent more on advertising this year than the amount of money raised by all six of his challengers combined, new campaign finance reports show.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Assume Koller has done everything right. There's still a big problem at DSS

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419136/scoppe-assume-koller-has-done.html>

Cindi Scoppe

LET'S GIVE every benefit of the doubt to Department of Social Services Director Lillian Koller. Let's take as a given that even if she did her job perfectly, even if all of her employees did their jobs perfectly, there still would be children who have been referred to DSS who would be abused and neglected, some horribly so.

Aiken Standard: MOX extension buys time for SRS's future

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140501/AIK0201/140509997/1018/AIK02/editorial-mox-extension-buys-time-for-srs-s-future>

Editorial

Keeping the Savannah River Site's MOX facility operational until September isn't an overwhelmingly encouraging decision, but it at least provides a short-term lifeline for the project. The push by policymakers to keep MOX afloat does reduce the immediate threat of a deep economic blow that some envisioned.

Post and Courier: Updating S.C. sex ed law

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC1002/140509988/1021/updated-sc-sex-ed-law>

Editorial

The S.C. House of Representatives' vote to update the way sex education is provided in public schools is a win for students and for the state. The bill, which squeaked by (51-49) on the final vote Wednesday, would

ensure that students receive medically accurate information regarding reproductive health and pregnancy prevention - at appropriate ages.

Post and Courier: Kerry still lacking on clarity

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC1002/140509989/1021/kerry-still-lacking-on-clarity>
Editorial

Secretary of State John Kerry, in a statement released Monday, warned: "I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone, particularly for partisan, political purposes, so I want to be crystal clear about what I believe and what I don't believe."

S.C. Agency News:

Greenville News: Child dies; mom charged; DSS vows to seek help in probes

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2014/04/30/woman-charged-dss-death/8505063/>
Tim Smith

The state Department of Social Services will now ask for the help of law enforcement agencies if it cannot find a child or family it is seeking for 72 hours, DSS Director Lillian Koller said following questions over the death of a 5-year-old Richland County boy.

The State: Latest child death prompts DSS policy change

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3418773/sheriff-lott-dss-could-have-prevented.html#storylink=cpy>
John Monk

The S.C. Department of Social Services announced late Wednesday it was changing its policy and will now require its workers to get in touch with law enforcement within 72 hours if DSS can't locate a family or child.

Post and Courier: DSS, law enforcement release conflicting information on case of infant's death

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140430/PC1603/140439924/1031/dss-law-enforcement-release-conflicting-information-on-case-of-infants-death>

Cynthia Roldan

The Department of Social Services took another hit Wednesday as details of an investigation into an infant's death were released by law enforcement. Five-month-old Bryson Webb died in his car seat on April 22, after he stopped breathing. A friend of his mother noticed Bryson was not breathing, while his mother was inside a store.

Associated Press: Sheriff: DSS didn't follow up on complaint

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kMq639vP

State social workers seeking the mother of a 5-month-old child who died last week from an unmonitored heart condition waited weeks before contacting a medical professional who had raised concerns about the child's safety, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said Wednesday.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Senate Finance budget plan includes 4K expansion

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7FgVvi6l

Seanna Adcox

The Senate Finance Committee has advanced a budget proposal that expands 4-year-old kindergarten and gives legislators a raise. The committee voted 16-3 late Wednesday on a \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes that provides legislators another \$1,000 monthly for in-district travel expenses, doubling that yearly stipend to \$24,000 for each of the Legislature's 170 members.

Associated Press: Senate Finance rejects effort to punish colleges

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

The Senate's budget-writing committee has rejected an effort to punish two South Carolina universities for assigning gay-themed books to freshmen. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler on Wednesday recommended adopting the House's proposed \$70,000 cuts.

The State: Senate panel restores college cuts passed by SC House over gay-themes

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419539/senate-budget-writers-restore.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Senate budget writers voted Wednesday to restore about \$70,000 in state money to two S.C. colleges, money the S.C. House voted to cut for assigning gay-themed books. The Senate Finance Committee also voted to give legislators, in effect, a \$12,000-a-year raise.

The State: Charleston law school suitor gets thumbs up

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419342/charleston-law-school-suitor-gets.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The Florida law school operator that wants to buy the private Charleston School of Law got a boost Wednesday when the staff of the state agency that regulates higher education recommended granting a license to the potential new owner.

Associated Press: SC 20-week abortion ban advances, with exceptions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N5PfmzEH

Andrew Coffman-Smith

Legislation that would ban abortions after 19 weeks in South Carolina has advanced in the state Senate. A subcommittee voted 4-1 Wednesday to advance the bill after amending it to exclude cases of rape, incest, fetal anomaly and where the life of the mother is in danger.

The State: SC solar plan rises from shadows

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419409/sc-solar-plan-rises-from-shadows.html>

Sammy Fretwell

With West Coast critics mollified, a proposal to expand solar energy in South Carolina sailed through the state Senate Wednesday after months of negotiations between sun power backers and utilities concerned about profits.

Associated Press: Democrats: Top accountant needs to apologize

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6BzNoS3W

Seanna Adcox

The Legislative Black Caucus on Wednesday called on the state's top accountant to apologize to the students and alumni of South Carolina State University for offensive comments, but Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom called it a political request that distracts from the need to fix the school's finances.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Study paints picture of South Carolina's immigrant population, urges planning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140430/PC1610/140439923/study-paints-picture-of-scs-immigrant-population-urges-planning>

Robert Behre

More than 1 percent of those living in South Carolina are here illegally, according to a new Pew Charitable Trust report that also urges states to plan for how they will handle this population if immigration reform passes.

Aiken Standard: Uranium from Germany could come to SRS

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140501/AIK0101/140439980/1004/uranium-from-germany-could-come-to-srs>

Derrek Asberry

Savannah River Site officials recently made it clear that accepting highly enriched uranium from Germany has not been confirmed, but is only a possibility at this point. In an SRS update notice, spokesman Jim Giusti wrote that the Department of Energy has collaborated with multiple organizations in Germany by signing a Statement of Intent.

Aiken Standard: Local leaders: MOX has short-term victory

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140501/AIK0101/140439950/1004/local-leaders-mox-has-short-term-victory>

Derrek Asberry

Local advocates for the Savannah River Site's MOX program all agree that the government's promise to continue construction through September is a victory for now, but that the real battle will come once appropriations committees decide whether or not to grant funding for fiscal year 2015.

Greenville News: Coal plants told to clean up

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/2014/04/29/supreme-court-rules-epa-can-cut-coal-plant-air-pollution-sc/8475003/>

Nathaniel Cary

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gives the Environmental Protection Agency authority to cut air pollution that drifts in the wind across states in the eastern half of the United States means South Carolina's coal-burning power plants must either close or cut the amount of soot and smog they contribute to the airstream.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence 1 Board members ponder future after failing to reach consensus on new superintendent

http://www.snow.com/news/education/article_f0b122ee-d0be-11e3-97dd-0017a43b2370.html

Ellen Meder

A day after the Florence School District 1 Board of Trustees decided it will need to start over the search for a new superintendent search, members and the community are still taking stock of the situation.

Anderson Independent: Judge rules in favor of county, schools in Clemson TIF case

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/30/judge-rules-in-favor-of-county-schools-in-tif/?partner=RSS>

Michael Eads

Pickens County and its school district are entitled to at least \$1.38 million in excess "TIF" collections for the city of Clemson, according to a judge's ruling released Wednesday. Judge Edward Miller's 31-page order comes down squarely on the side of the school district and county in the dispute.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP: Health signups lagging

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_OVERHAUL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-04-30-18-49-02

Erica Werner

House Republicans issued a report Wednesday saying that one-third of people who signed up for health insurance through new federal exchanges hadn't paid their first month's premium as of mid-April, which could undermine the Obama administration's claims of robust enrollment under the new health law.

McClatchy: White House back on defensive about Benghazi

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/04/30/226139/white-house-back-on-defensive.html?sp=/99/104/#storylink=cpy>

Lesley Clark, Lindsay Wise

The White House on Wednesday dismissed allegations by Republicans that newly released emails prove the administration's response to the 2012 attack on a U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans, was politically calculated.

Brian Symmes

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