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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, May 20, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC's new state symbol is the Columbian mammoth

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=peP031f6

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina now has an official state fossil, thanks to the initiative of a third-grader, despite snags in the Senate over creationism and reluctance to add more symbols to the official list. Eight-year-old Olivia McConnell of Lake City said Monday she's happy to educate her fellow citizens.

Note: The Columbian mammoth became the state fossil Friday with Gov. Nikki Haley's signature, joining 50 other official symbols.

The State: Gov. Nikki Haley meets her hero Joan Jett

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3455154/gov-nikki-haley-meets-her-hero.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Of the three people Gov. Nikki Haley has said she would like sit down with, two -- former Gov. Carroll Campbell and former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher -- have passed away. She got to meet the third on Monday -- rocker Joan Jett.

Note: "Strength, talent, passion, and courage...it doesn't get any cooler than her," Haley wrote in a Facebook post.

WLTX: Study: S.C. Lawmakers Should Get Big Pay Raises

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/05/19/study-sc-lawmakers-raises-pay/9300219/>

Robert Kittle

South Carolina lawmakers should get big pay raises, according to a study that was commissioned two years ago but is just now getting attention because lawmakers are talking about it. The state Senate voted last week to give all state lawmakers an additional \$12,000 a year for in-district expenses, things like traveling to meetings around their districts and running their local district offices.

Note: The House will also have to agree to it, and Gov. Nikki Haley is expected to veto the raise if it makes it to her desk.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Crowd cheers Rice for president comment

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/19/crowd-cheers-rice-president-comment/9294179/>

Rudolph Bell

It was a Lindsey Graham campaign event, but Condoleezza Rice drew the biggest applause. A crowd of more than 1,000 erupted with approval at the TD Convention Center on Monday – and many rose to their feet clapping – when Graham suggested Rice run for president.

Associated Press: 4 Democrats vying for SC schools chief nomination

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=KEOi14QE

Andrew Coffman Smith

The Democratic race for South Carolina Superintendent of Education isn't as crowded as the Republican contest but it is just as heated. The race has largely focused on how to properly fund public education, increasing teacher pay, creating a comprehensive and fair teacher evaluation system and strengthening the role and morale of the state Department of Education.

Index-Journal: Campbell meets with GOP women

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Campbell-meets-with-GOP-women/4/40/25614>

Chris Trainor

Mike Campbell is going to be putting in some miles the next few days. Campbell, who is the son of late former Gov. Carroll Campbell, is a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. He currently is in the midst of a barnstorming tour that will see him visit all 46 counties in South Carolina in seven days.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Henry McMaster is the clear choice for SC lieutenant governor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3455169/editorial-henry-mcmaster-is-the.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

TWO YEARS AGO, S.C. voters overwhelmingly voted to let gubernatorial candidates select their running mates, rather than being stuck on the ballot with someone not of their choosing and, oftentimes, in office with a lieutenant governor of a different philosophy.

Times and Democrat: 21st century doesn't have big storm — yet

http://thetandd.com/news/st-century-doesn-t-have-big-storm-yet/article_cef38b5e-df98-11e3-9851-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

One looks at a trend that most hurricane watchers will call surprising: Tropical cyclones over the last 30 years, regardless of their size, are peaking 33 miles farther north each decade in the Northern Hemisphere and 38 miles farther south each decade in the Southern Hemisphere.

Note: “Every year we do this hurricane exercise with state agencies to make sure that we are ready, and every year we have made it more extensive, and have added another layer,” Haley said.

Note: Haley says, “As always, South Carolina is ready and prepared for the upcoming hurricane season.”

The State: How legislators can end their immunity from criminal prosecution

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3454388/how-legislators-can-end-their.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

In our editorial on Sunday, we called on Senate leaders to introduce legislation to close the Manning Loophole, which requires the attorney general to wait for legislative permission before he can investigate legislators for taking bribes and converting government resources or campaign funds to personal use and otherwise making money off of their office.

Aiken Standard: Senate stipend hike wrong way forward

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140519/AIK0201/140519331/1018/AIK02/editorial-senate-stipend-hike-wrong-way-forward>

Editorial

The idea of increased pay for legislators has been tossed around for years as a way to get a more qualified and diverse crowd serving in Columbia. But the backdoor way the S.C. Senate recently approved a pay hike appears rather disingenuous if that was their aim.

Post and Courier: Don't dilute texting ban

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140520/PC1002/140529982/1021/dont-dilute-texting-ban>

Editorial

If the reason for enacting a state ban on texting while driving is to make roads and drivers safer and to replace the present patchwork of local bans, then the Senate is heading in the wrong direction. Instead of simply banning texting while driving, the Senate wants to muddy the issue by barring young people from texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.

Greenville News: Proposed school tax hike is reasonable

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/05/19/editorial-proposed-school-tax-hike-reasonable/9299015/>

Editorial

The biggest problem facing local school districts is that state funding for education in South Carolina is sorely lacking. State mandates sometimes come with added funding, but also with the requirement that local districts find additional local funding, too.

Rock Hill Herald: Pass House version of texting ban

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/19/5977834/pass-house-version-of-texting.html?sp=/100/105/121/>
Editorial

When it comes to crafting a statewide texting ban, House members got it right and state senators got it wrong. We hope the House version will prevail. Earlier this month, the Senate passed what amounted to a toothless texting ban that principally applies only to young drivers.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC attorney general to appeal Harrell ruling

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

State prosecutors are challenging a judge's decision to dismiss allegations of corruption against South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell. A spokesman for Attorney General Alan Wilson confirmed the appeal Monday. But Mark Powell said he didn't immediately have the documents detailing Wilson's reasons for the appeal.

The State: SC lieutenant governor's post about to go vacant

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3455291/sc-lieutenant-governors-post-about.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina's No. 2 job will soon go vacant for the first time in nearly 50 years with Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell signing a contract to lead his alma mater, the College of Charleston. McConnell, 66, has not stepped down yet, but the five-year contract that he reached to become the school's 22nd president starts July 1 and requires him to "devote full-time attention and energies" to the job.

Post and Courier: Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell signs 5-year contract for College of Charleston president's post

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC16/140519233/1177/lt-gov-glenn-mcconnell-signs-5-year-contract-for-college-of-charleston-presidents-post>

Diane Knich

According to the contract, which board chairman Greg Padgett released Monday, McConnell will earn a \$300,000 annual salary, with \$188,000 coming from the state and \$112,000 from the school's foundation. He will live in the president's house on campus, and the school will provide him with a car.

Post and Courier: S.C. Lawmakers to consider law enforcement-related bills

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC1603/140519219/1031/sc-lawmakers-to-consider-law-enforcement-related-bills>

Cynthia Roldan

A series of bills involving law enforcement-related issues will be taken up by the legislature Tuesday. The Senate's judiciary subcommittee will consider a House bill that would add another requirement to the steps an officer has to take when pulling over someone for suspected drunk driving.

Post and Courier: Pedestrians face high risk on South Carolina roads, report says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140520/PC1610/140529986/1031/pedestrians-face-high-risk-on-south-carolina-roads-report-says>

Prentis Findlay

South Carolina roads are particularly dangerous for walkers, who are reported to sustain fatal injuries at a rate double the national average, according a study released Tuesday. LeaMond and other officials who participated in a teleconference Monday to discuss the study called for passage of the Safe Streets Act of 2014.

Island Packet: Sen. Davis won't back bill naming interchange for Patrick

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/19/3118489/sen-davis-wont-back-bill-naming.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

The resolution, which has passed the House of Representatives, would ask the state Department of Transportation to post signs designating the road network where the parkway and Spanish Wells Road intersect on Hilton Head Island as the "Representative Andy Patrick Interchange."

South Carolina News:

The State: Midlands Marine veteran to receive Medal of Honor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3454906/midlands-marine-veteran-to-receive.html#storylink=cpy>

Jeff Wilkinson

William Kyle Carpenter, a Marine Corps veteran from Gilbert who was severely wounded in 2010 while fighting in Afghanistan, next month will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's top award for valor, the White House announced Monday.

Associated Press: Obama to give Marine veteran Medal of Honor

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

Nedra Pickler

An Afghanistan war veteran who absorbed the blast of a grenade to protect a fellow Marine will receive the medal of honor next month, becoming the eighth living recipient for actions in Afghanistan or Iraq. President Barack Obama will present the medal to retired Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter during a White House ceremony on June 19.

Greenville News: Prison system moves ahead with appeal in mental health case

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2014/05/19/prison-system-moves-ahead-appeal-mental-health-case/9275187/>

Tim Smith

The state's prison system is appealing two-dozen rulings by former Circuit Judge Michael Baxley, four months after Baxley found the state violated the rights of inmates with serious mental illness and ordered a plan of improvement within six months.

Associated Press: SC panel rejects sale of Charleston School of Law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6MJQvFN4

Andrew Coffman Smith

A committee of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is recommending that the sale of Charleston School of Law to a for-profit company be denied. The commission's Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing voted 3-1 on Monday against the sale over concerns that Florida-based InfiLaw's lower standards and pending lawsuits would devalue the school's education and pose a risk.

The State: InfiLaw loses round in bid to run Charleston law school

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/19/3455414/infilaw-loses-round-in-bid-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Carolyn Click

A committee of the state Commission on Higher Education dealt a blow to a proposed sale of the private Charleston School of Law Monday when it recommended denying the license application of InfiLaw, a for-profit company that sought to add the Charleston school to its portfolio of independently operated law schools.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Chester Co. project with 1,500 jobs may be auto-related

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/19/5978019/chester-countys-big-economic-development.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Chester County is one step from landing a company which could invest more than \$560 million and employ 1,500. County officials have not named the prospective company or what it might manufacture, but state Rep. Ralph Norman, R-Rock Hill, said the project is automotive related.

Greenville News: Greenville advances tax hike that will add fire station

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/20/city-tax-hike-advances/9314195/>

Anna Lee

It took less than 10 minutes Monday night to tentatively approve the city of Greenville's first property tax hike in 20 years. City Council unanimously approved a four-mill tax increase, raising the millage rate from 85.4 mills to 89.4 mills. Taxpayers would pay \$24 more a year, or \$536.40, on a \$150,000 owner-occupied home.

Anderson Independent: Anderson District 3 plans to issue bonds to pay for new technology

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/19/anderson-district-3-plans-to-issue-bonds-to-pay/?partner=RSS>

Sarah Freishtat

The Anderson County Board of Education approved the plan at a meeting Monday night. The Iva-based district plans to raise no more than \$600,000 in bonds, said district Business Manager Keith Martin, \$257,000 of that will go toward the third payment on a 2012 technology purchase, Martin said.

National News:

Politico: Dems desperately seek an Obama midterm strategy

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/democrats-midterm-strategy-106873.html?hp=f1>

Edward-Isaac Dove

For months, President Barack Obama has been telling donors that there's nothing more important to him than the November elections. But many Democrats say their biggest worry for the fall is the president himself.

Associated Press: For Obama, a second term focus on following through

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/obama-2nd-term-focus-following-through>

Julie Pace

Burned by the failed rollout of his health care law, President Barack Obama is seeking to build a team for the final years of his administration where management expertise may trump keen political or legislative skills. Gone from the White House are nearly all of the high-profile political gurus who ran Obama's two presidential campaigns.

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