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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, May 19, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina's rural schools desperately need state attention, study finds
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC1610/140519450/1177/south-carolinas-rural-schools-desperately-need-state-attention-study-finds>

Doug Pardue

Once again a national study of schools has ranked South Carolina's near the bottom of the heap. The state's rural schools are the third worst in the nation when it comes to the need for attention from state officials and lawmakers, according to the study by the nonprofit Rural School and Community Trust.

Note: For the first time in years, the state legislature, at the request of Gov. Nikki Haley, is poised to spend millions of dollars in assistance to those rural schools. In her State of the State speech in January, Haley called for spending \$177 million to upgrade poor rural schools, especially in the areas of improving student literacy and access to technology.

Post and Courier: Ethics bill, seawall effort to drive Statehouse discussion
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC1603/140519286/1005/>

Jeremy Borden

It's gearing up to be a busy week at the Statehouse this week - with the fight for ethics reform and a bill that would allow seawalls leading the pack so far. On ethics, it seems there's more disagreement than accord as a proposal heads to the House floor.

Note: Some S.C. senators and Gov. Nikki Haley have already rejected the House's preliminary version of the bill. Haley's pushback on the House's proposal has rankled some members.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Condoleezza Rice in Greenville today

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/19/condoleezza-rice-greenville-today/9270175/>

Rudolph Bell

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to campaign in Greenville today for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. It lists many well-known Greenville residents as chairs or co-chairs for the event, such as developers Bob and Phil Hughes and Greenville lawyer David Wilkins, a former South Carolina speaker of the House and U.S. ambassador to Canada.

Associated Press: Ex-Secretary of State Rice to campaign for Graham

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4DALandn

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is coming to South Carolina to campaign for U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. Rice and Graham agree on several foreign policy goals, including protecting American interests abroad by taking actions in conflicts.

Post and Courier: Young Democrat Bakari Sellers seeks to make history as lieutenant governor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140517/PC1603/140519389/1031/young-democrat-bakari-sellers-seeks-to-make-history-as-lieutenant-governor>

Cynthia Roldan

There are only a few weeks left in this year's legislative session and Bakari Sellers is running out of time. Sellers, D-Denmark, is not seeking re-election for his seat as a representative of Bamberg County and he's working against the clock to get legislation passed, while many of his colleagues have dropped their efforts in favor of trying again next year.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Ill-timed Senate pay hike

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC1002/140519290/1021/ill-timed-senate-pay-hike>

Editorial

Just when you thought the state Senate had exhibited a sense of restraint by rejecting a backdoor pay hike last Tuesday, a majority of senators actually reversed that decision late the following day. Maybe better sense will prevail when House conferees from the House take up the budget with their Senate counterparts later this month.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: A simple censure would have expressed lawmakers' opinions

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140518/OPINION/405181011/1128?Title=A-simple-censure-would-have-expressed-lawmakers-8217-opinions>

Editorial

Regardless of how anyone feels about two colleges assigning freshmen to read books about homosexuality, it should be obvious that the General Assembly shouldn't respond by micromanaging curriculum choices and school budgets.

Rock Hill Herald: Politics behind decision to replace Common Core

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/18/5974352/politics-behind-decision-to-replace.html?sp=/100/105/121/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

The state Legislature is on the verge of ditching the national educational standards of Common Core and replacing them with standards developed inside the state. But the motivation for doing so appears to have more to do with politics than the quality of the education the state offers its children.

Legislative Session News:

Times and Democrat: Liquor bill moves ahead in Senate

http://thetandd.com/business/local/liquor-bill-moves-ahead-in-senate/article_7ef0022e-df05-11e3-b42e-001a4bcf887a.html

A bill that would allow Rosalia's Mexican Restaurant and similar establishments to serve liquor if nearby churches agree has taken another step forward. A state Senate subcommittee on Thursday approved Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter's bill, allowing it to move on to the full Judiciary Committee for consideration.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Edgefield escaping past: Struggles meet progress in Strom Thurmond's hometown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140518/PC16/140519390/1006/edgefield-escaping-past>

Glenn Smith

It's difficult to go far in this rural town known for potters, peaches and politics without sensing the presence of the man who is arguably its most revered native son. A life-size statue of former U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond stands over the town square. His name adorns a nearby brick wall alongside nine other local-bred governors.

The State: 60 years later, Brown decision still resonates in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/17/3452833/60-years-later-brown-decision.html#storylink=cpy>

Carolyn Click

The U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed segregation in public schools resonated across South Carolina on May 17, 1954, with a volatile mix of alarm, cautious optimism and outright defiance. Gov. James F. Byrnes, a former high court justice, expressed shock, saying he could not believe the court would overturn the long-held doctrine, established in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson case, that separate facilities for blacks and whites were constitutional as long as facilities were equal.

Aiken Standard: Website highlights South Carolina's small towns

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140519/AIK0101/140519388/1007/AIK0101/website-highlights-south-carolinas-small-towns>

Ben Baugh

SCtowns.org was at the Magnolia Ridge Antique and Artisan Show on Saturday to produce a video to be broadcast on a number of outlets and platforms. The one question that Mike Seay with SCTowns.org asks

when traversing the state is, "Why would someone want to exit the interstate to visit a particular municipality?"

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: Chester County Council considers tax breaks for mystery company
<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/18/5974358/chester-county-council-considers.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Chester County Council on Monday will consider tax breaks for an unnamed company that could invest more than \$560 million and employ 1,500. It's the second of three votes the council must take to grant tax breaks to a company identified only as project "Summer."

Post and Courier: Goose Creek leads Charleston region in home affordability report
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140519/PC16/140519452/1177/goose-creek-leads-charleston-region-in-home-affordability-report>

Tyrone Richardson

A handful of Lowcountry municipalities made a Top 20 list for affordable places to buy a home in South Carolina. The consumer advocacy site NerdWallet recently analyzed federal data to rank the places that have the most to offer home purchasers in the Palmetto State.

Post and Courier: As Berkeley County completes reassessment, the property tax disconnect arrives
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140518/PC16/140519392/1006/as-berkeley-county-completes-reassessment-the-property-tax-disconnect-arrives>

David Slade

All three counties in the Charleston metro area are reassessing properties this year or next year, and for some residents, that's likely to cause property tax bills to bounce up and then down. Property taxes and reassessment are confusing for many property owners, but for those in towns and cities that span multiple counties, tax bills can be downright baffling.

Times and Democrat: Trustees: Community use of school facilities should cover district expenses
http://thetandd.com/news/local/trustees-community-use-of-school-facilities-should-cover-district-expenses/article_495ccea-df03-11e3-8e27-001a4bcf887a.html

Ryanne Persinger

The Bamberg School District Two Board of Trustees discussed community use of its facilities at its May 12 meeting. Currently, the board allows community sports teams to use school facilities free of charge, a practice trustees say they support. However, they indicated at the meeting they want to make sure the district doesn't lose money in the process.

National News:

Politico: POLITICO poll shows mounting danger for Dems
<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/politico-poll-shows-mounting-danger-for-dems-106814.html>

Alexander Burns

President Barack Obama's job approval slump and voters' entrenched wariness of his health care law are dogging Democrats ahead of the 2014 midterm elections, and Republicans have captured a lead in the areas home to the year's most competitive races, according to a new POLITICO poll.

Post and Courier: Tea party shaping GOP ideology
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140518/PC1603/140519285/1031/tea-party-shaping-gop-ideology>

Charles Babington

Tuesday's high-profile primary elections may extend a streak of sorts for tea party Republicans: losing individual races but winning the larger ideological war by tugging the GOP rightward. Several tea party-endorsed candidates are struggling in Tuesday's Republican congressional primaries in Georgia, Kentucky and Idaho.

Politico: House GOP gears up for Benghazi probe
<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/house-republicans-benghazi-probe-106816.html>

Lauren French

There's widespread agreement among Republicans that the new Benghazi panel is necessary to get to the bottom of the 2012 attacks on the U.S. mission in Libya that killed the ambassador and three other three Americans. They accuse the Obama administration of stonewalling existing congressional probes.

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