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Date: 2/5/2013 9:33:22 AM
Subject: Clips - Tuesday, February 5, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News

Charleston Business Journal: Sparc expansion to add hundreds of jobs

Sparc broke ground today on its new \$11 million facility off Clements Ferry Road in Charleston.

<http://www.charlestonbusiness.com/news/46643-sparc-expansion-to-add-hundreds-of-jobs?rss=0>

Matt Tomsic

Sparc broke ground today on an \$11 million facility that will be used to continue the software developer's work with the government and private companies. Gov. Nikki Haley, Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and others gathered for the groundbreaking, held at the software developer's facility off Clements Ferry Road in Charleston. Haley said the expansion is a compliment to South Carolina and Charleston because Sparc is choosing to grow its business in the Lowcountry, and it will add more than 300 jobs to the company.

Note: "Look at what we're celebrating today," Haley said. "We are not celebrating what they started, we are now celebrating expansion."

Live 5: Haley breaks ground for SPARC addition (Video)

A local company is doing its part to help the economy, by adding more than 300 jobs as it looks to invest nearly \$11 million dollars in the next four years. The groundbreaking took just moments, but Governor Nikki Haley welcomed a vision that's been in the works for years.

Note: Governor Haley says at the state level, they will continue to minimize the hurdles involved in starting and maintaining a business. "We want to make sure we're keeping any regulations, any additional cost out of their way so that they can just focus on their employees and focus on their product."

News 4: SPARC expanding, creating new jobs in Berkeley County (Video)

<http://www.abcnews4.com/video?clipId=8323238&topVideoCatNo=189728&autoStart=true>

Post and Courier: SPARC breaks ground on major expansion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130204/PC05/130209703/1010/sparc-breaks-ground-on-major-expansion>

Tyrone Richardson

Charleston-based software developer SPARC officially kick-started major expansion plans of its Clements Ferry Road campus near Wando today. The company hosted the official groundbreaking of construction to expand its Daniel Island footprint to include more space and employees.

Note: During Monday's event, Gov. Nikki Haley lauded SPARC's expansion plans, dubbing it a "great innovative" company. "We are now celebrating an expansion," she said. "Anytime you look at an expansion there is no greater compliment to the Lowcountry and no greater compliment to the state than to have a company say not only are we doing well and we are doing well in this environment and we want to keep doing better."

Post and Courier: SPARC launches expansion of Daniel Island campus

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC05/130209656/1268/sparc-launches-expansion-of-daniel-island-campus>

Tyrone Richardson

Locally based software developer SPARC kicked off a major expansion of its Charleston campus Wednesday, a project that's expected to create several hundred technology jobs. The company held the official ground-breaking of construction to expand its Daniel Island footprint to include more space and employees.

Note: During Monday's event, Gov. Nikki Haley lauded SPARC's growth, dubbing it a "great innovative company." "Anytime you look at an expansion there is no greater compliment to the Lowcountry and no greater compliment to the state than to have a company say not only are we doing well and we are doing

well in this environment and we want to keep doing better,” she said.

The State: Healthcare: SC people who would be left out of healthcare act

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619331/healthcare-sc-people-who-would.html>

Joey Holleman

Luis Guess works two part-time jobs in the food service business, and he's not eligible for company health insurance at either. The 31-year-old Columbia resident faces a hospital bill he can't pay after an emergency appendectomy, and he also has spent time in hospital emergency rooms dealing with his diabetes.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley wants the state to opt out of the expansion, and many Republican legislative leaders have said they plan to go along with the governor.

Greenville News: School choice bill is just tax break

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/OPINION/302050011/School-choice-bill-just-tax-break>
Editorial

Lawmakers in South Carolina once again have before them a school choice bill that falls well short of genuine school reform and would do little more than create a tax break for families that send their children to private schools. The bill, generally the same as one that passed the House last year before stalling in the Senate, would create a tax deduction of \$2,000 for each homeschool student in a family; \$4,000 for each private-school student in a family; and \$1,000 for each student attending a district that's not the student's home district. The bill also would create tax credits for individuals who donate money to scholarship funds at qualifying private schools.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley in her recent State of the State address said although she supports school choice it will not be a focus of her efforts to reform education; instead she wants to “start a conversation” about reforming school funding. That is a reasonable position and could serve as an example to other vocal school choice supporters, for some of whom the issue has been an obsession, to focus on the broader education picture rather than trying, year-after-year, to pass bills that do not address the real problems.

Post and Courier: Obama shot skeet. What about our local politicians?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209672/1005/obama-shot-skeet-what-about-our-local-politicians>

Staff Report

President Barack Obama created “skeet-gate” recently after the White House released a photo of him target shooting from August 2012. “Yes, in fact, up at Camp David, we do skeet shooting all the time,” Obama told the New Republic during a question about his own gun use.

Note: Asked when was the last time she fired a gun, Gov. Nikki Haley, who has a concealed-weapons permit, said, “It would have had to have been before the election. I won't tell you who I fired it at. Just kidding!”

Post and Courier: Haley staying on 1st District race sideline — for now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209660/1005/haley-staying-on-1st-district-sideline-x2014-for-now>

Robert Behre

Gov. Nikki Haley said today she won't take sides in the 16-way Republican primary created when she appointed Tim Scott to the U.S. Senate. “You've got way too many candidates in there, and they're all very good candidates,” she said.

Note: Haley said it's possible she might endorse a candidate after the March 19 GOP primary but before the all-but-certain April 2 runoff. (A candidate must get more than 50 percent on March 19 to avoid a runoff).

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South Carolina News

AP: Strom Thurmond's mixed-race daughter dies at 87

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cnwnt7rb

Meg Kinnard

Essie Mae Washington-Williams, the mixed-race daughter of one-time segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond who kept her parentage secret for more than 70 years, has died. She was 87.

The State: Essie Mae Washington-Williams, daughter of late US senator, dies

‘Throughout his life and mine, we respected each other,’ Washington-Williams once said of her father, Strom

Thurmond

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/04/2618904/essie-mae-washington-williams.html>

Jamie Self and Sammy Fretwell

Essie Mae Washington-Williams, the long-unrecognized daughter of the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, died late Sunday at 87. Washington-Williams, the daughter of onetime segregationist Thurmond and an African-American maid in his parents' Edgefield home, was living in Irmo at the time of her death, according to a notice from Leevy's Funeral Home in Columbia.

The State: Letters shed light on long-secret Thurmond-Washington-Williams relationship

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619075/letters-shed-light-on-long-secret.html>

Staff Report

Reporters searching the Clemson University archives found more than two dozen new documents relating to the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond and his daughter, Essie Mae Washington Williams, who died Monday. A half-dozen previously were published, and Williams said there were many more. Some letters in the archives refer to other letters that are missing. Other letters -- from the 1980s and 1990s -- were listed in indexes but later discarded by librarians unaware of their value, according to librarians handling the collection.

Greenville News: House District 17 runoff is today

www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/NEWS/302050015/House-District-17-runoff-today

Ron Barnett

The runoff in a special election to fill an open seat in state House District 17 is today. Voters will choose between Mike Burns of Taylors and Chris Sullivan of Travelers Rest.

Greenville News: State senator mulling challenge to Graham

Bright: S.C. more conservative than senior U.S. senator

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130204/NEWS/302040062/State-senator-mulling-challenge-Graham>

State Sen. Lee Bright says he may run against U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in 2014. Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican who last year won re-election to a second term in the state Senate, told GreenvilleOnline.com that he feels South Carolina is more conservative than Graham.

Post and Courier: S.C. Rep. Robert Brown questions I-526 funding method

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209646/1005/sc-rep-robert-brown-questions-i-526-funding-method>

Diane Knich

State Rep. Robert Brown has asked the state's top lawyer whether the method by which the Mark Clark Expressway got its final piece of funding is legal. Brown, D-Hollywood, said that's important information for supporters and opponents of the controversial completion of Interstate 526 across Johns and James islands. If the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank doesn't come through with the money, Charleston County could be stuck with a partially completed road project, he said.

The State: Legislature should allow early voting (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/v-print/2618799/editorial-legislature-should-allow.html>

Editorial

Although the seven-hour waits that some Richland County voters endured in November were an extreme, with specific causes, there's nothing new about too-long waits to vote. Even when election officials manage to deploy all of their voting machines, people can end up waiting a couple of hours, sometimes more. Some argue that anyone unwilling to be inconvenienced doesn't need to be voting, and frankly, there's something emotionally appealing about that argument, particularly when you think about how uninformed some voters are when they cast ballots.

Post and Courier: South Carolina earns a high grade for advancing charter schools (Opinion)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC1002/130209676/1021/south-carolina-earns-a-high-grade-for-advancing-charter-schools>

Editorial

For far too long, South Carolina's students' scores on standardized tests have been among the country's lowest. Public schools have struggled to tweak their programs and try new curricula with limited academic success. But there is one area where the state has taken bold steps to improve education: charter schools.

Post and Courier: How a bus strike would affect Dorchester District 2

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209673/1005/how-a-bus-strike-would-affect-dorchester-district-2>

Staff report

The Post and Courier requested information from Charleston and Dorchester District 2 school officials last week to look at how a potential strike could affect different schools. Information from Charleston was available and published Friday. Here's the comparison information for Dorchester 2, which has 22 schools. In Dorchester, 60.2 percent of its 23,670 students ride the bus. That's a higher percentage than the 56 percent of Charleston's 45,998 students who ride the bus, but Charleston still has a larger number of bus riders with 25,777.

WIS-TV: Ex-internal affairs chief to file suit against state

<http://www.wistv.com/story/20961915/ex-internal-affairs-chief-to-file-suit-against-state>

Jody Barr

Former state Department of Public Safety internal affairs chief Bobby Collins says he hopes the lawsuit he's about to file will force DPS director Leroy Smith to tell him what he did during a traffic stop that cost him his \$84,000-a-year job.

AP: SC ending unemployment services at 17 offices

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QN2RZxIO

Seanna Adcox

Jobless persons who want face-to-face assistance with their unemployment benefits in South Carolina may face a longer drive starting Feb. 19. The Department of Employment and Workforce is reducing its offices for unemployment services from 56 to 39, spokeswoman Adrienne Fairwell told The Associated Press on Monday.

AP: A look at SC office shifts for jobless benefits

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=saZL4yd3

Staff Report

The Department of Employment and Workforce is ending unemployment insurance services at 17 offices statewide. The following lists where the reassigned currently go for in-person help with their benefits, and where they'll go starting Feb. 19. While clients are assigned to their nearest office, they can receive assistance at any of the soon-to-be 39 locations

The State: Department of Employment and Workforce consolidating services

Aid recipients in some rural areas must travel farther for in-person help

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619268/agency-for-jobless.html>

Roddie Burris

About 6,000 unemployed people in some of South Carolina's most rural areas will have to go farther to get help in person with their unemployment claims. Decreased federal funds will cause the Department of Employment and Workforce to consolidate functions at 17 of its state offices beginning Feb. 19, the agency said Monday.

The State: USC 'tops off' new Moore Business School building

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619287/usc-tops-off-new-moore-business.html>

Andy Shain

University of South Carolina president Harris Pastides hopes the school's new \$106.5 million glass-encased Darla Moore School of Business will become a visitor attraction. "I feel absolutely confident that this building here will become a destination point ... for many travelers and tourists who will be driving around the Southeast," Pastides said at a ceremony Monday. "(They) will see here in Columbia, S.C., a signature building for the state and the United States."

Associated Press: Federal prosecutor in SC sponsoring logo contest

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209639/1005/federal-prosecutor-in-sc-sponsoring-logo-contest>

Staff Report

South Carolina's top federal prosecutor is sponsoring a contest for school children to design a logo for upcoming gun violence prevention publications. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles' office is sponsoring the 10th

Annual Project Sentry Logo Contest. The statewide contest gives students a chance to show how they prevent gun violence in school by designing a logo for use on upcoming Project Sentry publications.

Post and Courier: March of Dimes launches March for Babies fundraising drive

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209637/1005/march-of-dimes-launches-march-for-babies-fundraising-drive>

Lauren Sausser

The South Carolina chapter of the March of Dimes will kick off its 2013 March for Babies campaign at Trident Medical Center in North Charleston at noon today. The drive helps raise money for premature births and birth defects. The campaign will be topped off by a celebration at Cannon Park on April 27.

The State: United Way campaign sets record

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/2619335/united-way-campaign-sets-record.html>

Bertram Rantin

Efforts to provide housing, tutoring and other services to Midlands residents in need have received one the biggest boosts ever. The United Way of the Midlands will announce its largest fundraising campaign total in history this evening during a celebration at The Marriott.

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Hyperlocal News

Greenville News: Auto sector gains bolster Upstate

BMW sales key factor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/BUSINESS/302050016/Auto-sector-gains-bolster-Upstate>

David Dykes

Signs from the economy at large point to continued strength in the automotive sector, industry experts say, an important component of the Upstate economy with BMW, Michelin and their suppliers providing paychecks for thousands of workers.

Post and Courier: Teachers to go to school longer in effort to help four low-performing Charleston County schools

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209640/1005/teachers-to-go-to-school-longer-in-effort-to-help-four-low-performing-charleston-county-schools>

Diette Courrage Casey

Teachers at four of Charleston County's academically worst schools will be asked to reapply for their jobs and commit to working about a month more than the rest of the district's teachers in 2013-14. School Superintendent Nancy McGinley proposed the idea as a way to stimulate an intense culture change at the schools that need it most.

AP: Saluda mayor gets \$26,000 in travel reimbursements

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pphQuMI5

Staff Report'

Saluda's mayor claimed nearly \$27,000 in travel reimbursements in 2012, more than triple what he spent on travel the year before. Mayor Frank Addy told The Index-Journal of Greenwood (<http://bit.ly/VxUkc7>) that the trips were to drum up economic development for Saluda. He says it has more than paid for itself with millions of dollars of new business.

Greenville News: SLED starts inquiry into alleged Simpsonville impropriety

Ex-chief, councilwoman deny mayor's allegations

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130205/NEWS/302050017/SLED-starts-inquiry-into-alleged-Simpsonville-impropriety>

Paul Alongi

The State Law Enforcement Division said Monday it is conducting a "preliminary inquiry" into allegations of impropriety in the city of Simpsonville. Simpsonville Mayor Perry Eichor said he has asked SLED Chief Mark Keel to investigate what Eichor alleges was an effort between former Police Chief Keith Grounsell and City Councilwoman Geneva Lawrence to fire an officer to make room for her relative on the force — allegations that Grounsell and Lawrence denied.

Post and Courier: Charleston Mayor Riley calls for tax hike to fund policing program at elementary schools,

downtown

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209643/1005/charleston-mayor-riley-calls-for-tax-hike-to-fund-policing-program-at-elementary-schools-downtown>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley's administration has drafted a new police safety plan meant to protect all the city's elementary schools from the random violence that struck Newtown, Conn. But it faces an uncertain future tied to what essentially is an emergency tax increase by City Council and comes when federal taxes, gas prices, food and other costs are also going up.

AP: Lancaster County cracks down on gambling machines

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o2guEohQ

Staff Report

The Lancaster County sheriff is the latest South Carolina lawman to promise a crackdown on gambling machines. Sheriff Barry Faile says anyone possessing a gambling machine in his county has two weeks to get rid of it or face arrest and prosecution.

Post and Courier: Charleston parking lot turns into symbolic abortion battlefield on Saturdays

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC16/130209642/1005/charleston-parking-lot-turns-into-symbolic-abortion-battlefield-on-saturdays>

Natalie Caula

As the sun and moon battled for dominance in Charleston's sky Saturday morning, two groups of people stood on opposite sides of a yellow line. One group stood ready to meet the women who drove into the parking lot of Charleston Women's Center, where abortions are performed. The group called to the women as they parked in the lot, with pleas such as "Adoption, not abortion."

The State: Lexington mayor will seek re-election

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/04/2618897/lexington-mayor-will-seek-re-election.html>

Tim Flach

Lexington Mayor Randy Halfacre is running for re-election, saying Monday he wants to oversee completion of several projects. His intention to be a candidate on the Nov. 5 ballot was announced in his State of the Town address. He has been mayor for nearly nine years.

Post and Courier: New editor named for The Post and Courier

<http://postandcourier.com/article/20130204/PC16/130209684/1177/new-editor-named-for-the-post-and-courier>

David Slade

Mitch Pugh will be the next editor of The Post and Courier, following a nationwide search to fill the top job in the newsroom of South Carolina's largest newspaper. The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, where Pugh currently serves as editor, was named one of "10 That Do It Right" in 2009 by Editor & Publisher, a top journalism industry publication. He is known for his focus on local news and his attention to providing unique content online.

The State: Military groundbreaker grew up in strong Columbia family

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/05/v-print/2619285/military-groundbreaker-grew-up.html>

Joey Holleman

The image is simple and, in historical context, stunning. Proud and confident, Capt. Charity Adams marches at the fore of a battalion of black women in the uniforms of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1943 at a military training base in Des Moines, Iowa. The photo doesn't match the assumptions of that era regarding race, gender, the military and the South. But if you focus on that strong woman at the front of the battalion, the photo is easier to understand. Amazing achievement was expected in the Adams household in Columbia.

The State: County councilman who works at highway department will get hearing

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/02/02/2615046/county-councilman-who-lost-highway.html#storylink=cpy>

Staff Report

A Richland County councilman whose job at the highway department jeopardizes his political career will get a hearing after all. In an order dated Friday, the Merit Systems Protection Board said an administrative law judge was wrong to decide without a hearing that the highway department should remove Norman Jackson from his job as an engineer and transportation planner. That ruling was issued in January 2012.

National News

Greenville News: U.S. factory orders up 1.8 percent in December

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/viewart/20130205/BUSINESS/302050018/U-S-factory-orders-up-1-8-percent-December>

Martin Crutsinger

U.S. factory orders increased in December even though companies trimmed their orders for goods that signal investment plans. Factory orders rose 1.8 percent in December compared to November, when orders had fallen 0.3 percent, the Commerce Department said Monday.

Tribune Washington Bureau: Kerry begins work as secretary of state

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC1601/130209670/1005/kerry-begins-work-as-secretary-of-state>

Paul Richter

John F. Kerry arrived at State Department headquarters Monday morning to begin his new role as secretary of State, telling employees that he wanted to answer the question: "Can a man actually run the State Department?" The former Massachusetts senator, who was preceded in the post by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Condoleezza Rice, acknowledged that "I have big high heels to fill."

Associated Press: Obama stands firm on gun control despite long odds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130205/PC1601/130209669/1005/obama-stands-firm-on-gun-control-despite-long-odds>

Nedra Pickler and Julie Pace

President Barack Obama declared Monday on his first trip outside Washington to promote gun control that a consensus is emerging for universal background checks for purchasers, though he conceded a tough road lay ahead to pass an assault weapons ban over formidable opposition in Congress.

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