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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 4, 2016

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## Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 4, 2016

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

Huffington Post: Plan C: Third-Party Run A Daunting Task For GOP Establishment

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/plan-c-republican-establishment-chattering-about-a-third-party-run\\_us\\_57295dcbe4b016f378941d68](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/plan-c-republican-establishment-chattering-about-a-third-party-run_us_57295dcbe4b016f378941d68)

Sam Stein and Ryan Grim

Hopes of stopping Donald Trump short of the Republican nomination ahead of this summer's convention came to a crashing end Tuesday night after Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas dropped out of the race following his loss in Indiana. What hope remains is being channeled into a Plan C: Have another Republican run for office in addition to Trump. Around Washington, chatter about the possibility of an independent run by a traditional conservative is becoming louder.

Note: Other names floated have included Govs. Susana Martinez (New Mexico), Brian Sandoval (Nev.) and Nikki Haley (S.C.) — popular Republicans of color who might help the party with the very voters Trump has driven away.

Post and Courier: Leatherman port terminal namesake blocks confirmation of Charleston ports chairman

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160503/PC05/160509765>

David Wren

Months after the State Ports Authority named its new container terminal after veteran state Sen. Hugh Leatherman, the powerful Pee Dee lawmaker is blocking the confirmation of the maritime agency's board chairman. Leatherman, R-Florence, made a successful motion during a Senate Transportation Committee hearing last week to delay the confirmation of Pat McKinney, who was appointed to the SPA's board of directors by Gov. Nikki Haley. McKinney, a staunch Haley ally, currently is chairman.

Note: Leatherman's motion followed a tense exchange during McKinney's confirmation hearing, when the lawmaker questioned McKinney's involvement in the Charleston Harbor deepening project, his knowledge of the SPA's finances, and whether he gets along with other board members. Last week's dustup occurred after McKinney raised questions in February about payments the SPA is making to contractors, including Richard Quinn, who is Leatherman's consultant in the senator's contested run for re-election this year, according to State Ethics Commission reports.

Note: Haley and Leatherman have regularly feuded in recent years. In March, Haley blamed Leatherman for delaying a bill to fix South Carolina's roads, saying the senator "is holding hostage our roads in the name of power." Last year, Leatherman fought with Haley about the best way to fund incentives that brought Swedish automaker Volvo to Berkeley County. Leatherman called Haley's plan "the worst kind of credit card debt I've ever seen." They also have clashed over handing the authority to review ethics complaints involving lawmakers to independent investigators instead of fellow legislators.

### General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate approves \$7.5 billion state budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160503/PC1603/160509763>

Cynthia Roldan

For the first time in decades, the S.C. Senate passed its version of the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget in a single day. The effort was so flawless and expeditious Tuesday that senators jokingly expressed concern among themselves that the process was going too smoothly. But the Senate's leader, Senate President Pro

Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, attributed the ease of the bill being passed to the work done by the chamber's budget-writing panels earlier in the process.

Greenville News: Senate rejects using surplus on tax rebate, roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/03/senate-rejects-using-surplus-tax-rebate-roads/83884426/>

Tim Smith

The Senate has decided to spend any surplus from this year's revenue collections on a bevy of pet projects, ice storm expenses, college maintenance and education funding, rejecting proposals to provide a tax rebate or send the money to roads. Senators voted 31-10 Tuesday to table proposals by Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican, to spend surplus on a tax rebate and road needs, before approving a nearly \$8 billion General Fund budget that Bright told the Senate was the largest in the state's history.

The State: Senate OKs 4% pay hike for SC employees, heads for clash with House

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article75475307.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Senate passed a 4 percent pay hike for state employees Tuesday, setting up a clash with the House. The House in March approved a 2 percent pay increase. State senators doubled that pay hike in the \$7.5 billion spending plan they approved Tuesday. The state budget takes effect July 1.

The State: EXCLUSIVE: FBI probing Richland County Recreation Commission, sources say

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article75442212.html#storylink=apmobile>

John Monk

The FBI has joined an ongoing investigation into allegations of public corruption at the Richland County Recreation Commission, according to sources familiar with the probe. The Richland County Sheriff's Department, the 5th Circuit solicitor's office and SLED already are looking into the allegations, details of which are not known.

Note: Meanwhile, James Brown III, the commission's executive director, said Tuesday that he has nothing to fear. "I welcome the investigation, which I am confident will clear my name personally as the agency's executive director," said Brown, 60, who has been the agency's director since about 2010 and with the agency since 1981.

The State: Nothing suspicious in package found near State House, Columbia police say

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article75391922.html#storylink=apmobile>

Avery G. Wilks

Columbia police say they found nothing suspicious in a package left in a U.S. Postal Service mailbox near the State House on Tuesday afternoon. Authorities tested the package "out of an over abundance of caution" after reports of a suspicious package at the corner of Sumter and Pendleton streets, the Columbia Police Department said in a message on Twitter.

LGBT Laws:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: The return of the Bathroom Bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160504/PC1603/160509740>

Cynthia Roldan

Sen. Lee Bright is expected to try once again today to attach a proposal to the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget that would take away state funds from local governments that adopt any local ordinance to expand the use of bathrooms to transgender people. Bright made an effort to do the same on Tuesday, but the attachment was stricken because — under the Senate's rules — it was unrelated to the state budget. Though Bright attempted to redraft the proposal to ensure it followed the Senate's rules on Tuesday, he ran out of time when the chamber approved the budget. The budget still needs one final vote today to be sent back to the House of Representatives.

The State: SC transgender bathroom ban efforts dying

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article75411842.html#storylink=apmobile>

Cassie Cope

A last-ditch effort to ban transgender people from using the S.C. bathrooms of their choice was dealt a fatal blow Tuesday as an attempt to use the state budget to enact the ban failed. On Tuesday, Bright proposed withholding money local governments get from the state if those counties or municipalities enact laws requiring businesses to allow people to use restrooms, dressing rooms or showers other than the one assigned to their biological sex at birth. However, Bright's attempt was defeated by a Senate rule that prohibits anything from being included in the state budget that is not directly related to state spending.

Charlotte Observer: Gov. Pat McCrory unloads on critics on John Boy & Billy radio show

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article75412987.html>

Jim Morrill

Gov. Pat McCrory Tuesday took on critics of House Bill 2, Bruce Springsteen, PayPal, the "thought police" and The Charlotte Observer during a lively interview with The Big Show's John Boy & Billy. The interview reunited the governor with the radio hosts, on whose Charlotte-based show he often appeared as mayor. "We've been pulling for you, man," John "John Boy" Isley said in greeting "the most beat-up man in America." They touched on HB2, the law that pre-empted a Charlotte ordinance that would have extended anti-discrimination protections to LGBT residents, and the firestorm that followed.

SC Agency News:

The State: Riot gains focus in SC Juvenile Justice guard reports

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article75473397.html>

Jamie Self

Male inmates at the state's juvenile justice compound smashed windows to enter a girls dormitory, overpowered a guard protecting some of the girls, set fires and ripped sinks from walls, according to guards' recollections of the Feb. 26 riot off Broad River Road. The disturbance led to investigations of the agency and promises of reform, which included the immediate hiring of an interim police chief – a position that, along with a gang expert and special response team, had gone vacant before the riot.

WACH: EXCLUSIVE: DJJ incident reports unveil officer testimony: life was threatened

<http://wach.com/news/local/exclusive-djj-incident-reports-unveil-officer-testimony-life-was-threatened>

The fallout from a February riot at the Department of Juvenile Justice continues to unravel as new details unveiled by WACH Fox News uncover just how serious those riots really were. WACH FOX News obtained twenty pages of incident reports from the night of February 26th, 2016. Many of them detailing the events of females being sexually assaulted and officers being physically abused. Causes allude to windows and doors not being secured and not enough staff present to handle the situation.

Opinion/Editorial:

Island Packet: Our view: Moss must open ethics hearing to public

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article75375417.html>

The Editorial Board

Beaufort County School District Superintendent Jeff Moss faces state charges of ethics violations, and his hearing should be open to the public. The S.C. Ethics Commission set the hearing after investigating the hiring of Moss' wife last year to a newly restructured administrative position. Its investigators found probable cause on three counts of ethics violations. Moss recently said he does not know whether he will ask that the hearing be open to the public. It's his call, and he should insist that the public have total access.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: Edgefield County tops best S.C. county list

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160503/AIK0101/160509801>

Dan Brown

Edgefield County Administrator Tommy Paradise has been on the job for only three months, and is already starting to enjoy the fruits of his labors in his new work home. SmartAsset, a financial technology company, has ranked Edgefield County as the No. 1 county in South Carolina for getting the best bang for its buck. "Edgefield County is a great place to be," Paradise said. "It is a friendly community."

Local News:

The State: Richland prepares to go to court over penny tax dispute

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article75449342.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sarah Ellis

Richland County Council decided Tuesday it is prepared to take the state Department of Revenue to court over the ongoing dispute about the county's transportation penny sales tax program. "This council is responsible for the transportation penny that the citizens of this county voted on. We need to protect that transportation penny," Councilman Bill Malinowski said at Tuesday's council meeting after council members emerged from a half-hour closed-door meeting in which they received legal advice from an outside attorney. "We, therefore, authorize the Richland County legal representative to take whatever steps are necessary, including litigation, to protect that transportation penny."

Sun News: Tax increase for \$600 million in road projects clears first hurdle

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article75318272.html>

Audrey Hudson

A penny sales tax on food and beverages to fund \$600 million in road construction projects unanimously passed the first reading by the Horry County Council Tuesday night. The council must approve two more readings by early June before the measure can be placed on the ballot for voters to make the ultimate decision in the November general election of whether to raise the tax for eight years.

The State: Two steps sought to cope with overcrowded Lexington County jail

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article75420182.html#storylink=apmobile>

Tim Flach

Lexington County Council agreed Tuesday to consider a pair of steps aimed at easing jail overcrowding. Public Defender Rob Madsen recommended adding a lawyer to speed handling of offenses against many of the nearly 800 detainees, while Sheriff Jay Koon wants to double the proposed addition of guards to a dozen. The nine council members expressed interest in both proposals but made no commitment to approve them.

Associated Press: Annual officer memorial to honor 3 who died in line of duty

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PAGxH1i9](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PAGxH1i9)

SC State Wire

South Carolina's annual law enforcement memorial ceremony will honor three officers who died in the line of duty last year. The ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday at the state's Criminal Justice Academy. It will include a special tribute to Marlboro County Sheriff's Deputy Delton Daniels, Forest Acres Police Officer Greg Alia and Columbia Police Officer Stacy Case.

Associated Press: Praying for police: Law agencies hold Lowcountry service

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C9bBgkSz](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=C9bBgkSz)

SC State Wire

A prayer service to show appreciation for Lowcountry law enforcement officers is scheduled to be held in Charleston. Wednesday's event at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in the city's historic district is a time for the community and clergy to remind law officers how much they mean to the community. Officers from the Charleston, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant police departments are attending as are deputies from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and officers from other local, state and federal agencies.

Independent Mail: Pastors, leaders to gather at Anderson Courthouse Plaza for prayer service

<http://www.independentmail.com/topstories/pastors-leaders-to-gather-at-anderson-courthouse-plaza-for-prayer-service-31f4253c-94a9-4c9f-e053-01-378007651.html>

Charmaine Smith-Miles

The Rev. Sam Duncan, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, and other local church and community leaders will gather on the Anderson County Courthouse steps Thursday for a prayer service in honor of the National Day of Prayer. About 300 to 400 people are expected to turn out for the noon prayer service at the downtown Anderson site, Sam Duncan said. Local high school students will be on hand to sing at the service, he said.

Greenville News: St. Jude Medical expansion in Pickens County to create 64 jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2016/05/03/st-jude-medical-expansion-pickens-county-create-64-jobs/83889978/>

Ron Barnett

St. Jude Medical is planning to expand its operations at the Pickens County Commerce Park with a \$12 million investment that will add 64 new jobs, according to the company. A new 60,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed by the end of the year, company spokeswoman Micki Sievwright said.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry Giving Day extended through noon Wednesday after technical issues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160503/PC05/160509764>

Thad Moore

Donors will have extra time to contribute to Lowcountry Giving Day after website troubles Tuesday morning snagged the annual philanthropic spree. Coastal Community Foundation officials decided to keep the initiative open until noon Wednesday in hopes that donors frustrated by technical difficulties would find time to give. The event, in its third year, encourages Lowcountry residents to contribute to the charities of their choice, but an error message Tuesday morning told donors that too many people were browsing, leading to long loading times and a crashing website.

Sun News: CCU picks tough time for stadium expansion as state tightens strings

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/sports/college/big-south/coastal-carolina-university/article75427947.html>

Ryan Young

Coastal Carolina University plans to pitch a cost revision for its football stadium expansion project as it meets yet again with the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education this week in its latest attempt to gain phase two state approval. The university hopes to learn Thursday if it can finally move forward with its plans to more than double the size of Brooks Stadium in preparation for the Chanticleers' move to the Sun Belt Conference and the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision, but in the meanwhile, school leaders have already learned that they are dealing with an entirely new vetting process for such projects.

National News:

Associated Press: Georgia governor defies party politics with pair of vetoes

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:b49d41e36233425e9e3403871a2a6427>

Ryan Phillips and Kathleen Foody

Georgia's Republican governor rejected the two top priorities of a legislature controlled by his own party this year, defying election year politics in a deep red state. Gov. Nathan Deal, in his second and constitutionally limited final term, vetoed legislation that would have protected opponents of gay marriage just days after the close of the legislative session in March. But he waited until Tuesday, the last possible day to issue vetoes, to block another bill that would have allowed people over 21 and with state permits to carry concealed handguns on college campuses.

Associated Press: Ted Cruz ends his bid for Republican presidential nomination

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:6163caa2d0c6493c8574e3d0b2b5fd9e>



Scott Bauer and Steve Peoples

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz ended his presidential campaign Tuesday, eliminating the biggest impediment to Donald Trump's march to the Republican nomination. The conservative tea party firebrand who cast himself as the only viable alternative to Trump announced his exit after a stinging defeat in Indiana's Republican primary. "It appears that path has been foreclosed," Cruz told supporters in Indianapolis.

Associated Press: Trump, Clinton all but certain to face off in fall campaign

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:c6d95fece5474c44acc80254c9f96c7b>

Julie Pace and Scott Bauer

Once dismissed as a fringe contender, businessman Donald Trump now is all but certain to lead the Republican Party into the fall presidential campaign against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton — a stunning political triumph for a first-time candidate whose appeal to frustrated voters was widely underestimated. Trump's victory in Indiana Tuesday and Ted Cruz's abrupt decision to drop out resolved the Republican nominee for 2016, but it still left the party in a deep state of uncertainty. Some Republican leaders remain acutely wary of the bombastic billionaire and have insisted they could never support him, even in a faceoff against Clinton.

Associated Press: Obama visiting Flint for first time since water crisis began

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:5240da8aca5e44e8800d5a1d31dbd735>

President Barack Obama is set to meet with residents of Flint, Michigan, to hear how they're managing after lead from old pipes tainted their drinking water. And he is bringing a message to Flint on Wednesday: a promise for change. Obama declared a state of emergency in mid-January and ordered federal aid to supplement the state and local response. At that point, however, the crisis was in full bloom.

Associated Press: Coalition vows to build up further against Islamic State

<http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:a29a40de1d694b23bb1993a6649cf3fa>

Robert Burns

An international coalition leading the military campaign against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq agreed Wednesday to accelerate their contributions and called on Iraq's leaders to reconcile their political differences. At a news conference, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter officially identified the Navy SEAL who was killed in combat in northern Iraq on Tuesday and said that as the war intensifies, "these risks will continue."

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