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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 8, 2014

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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 8, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**Washington Post:** States blame fiscal cliff for tax revenue slide

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/05/08/states-blame-fiscal-cliff-for-tax-revenue-slide/>  
Reid Wilson

Tax revenues have dropped in numerous states for the first time since the end of the great recession, in large part due to lingering affects from the fiscal cliff negotiations that embroiled Congress at the end of 2012.

**Note:** “The fiscal cliff deal skews what the prior year number means in a lot of states,” said Christian Soura, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s deputy chief of staff for budget and policy. “Many corporate interests had tax reasons to recognize profits at the end of calendar year 2012 before the fiscal cliff took effect.”

**WLTX:** Mental Health Supporters: Time to Break 'Stigmas'

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/05/07/mental-health-supporters-time-to-break-stigmas/8815737/>  
Dakarai Turner

When it comes to mental health, people close to the issue say there is still a large stigma that keeps people from getting help they may need. Millions across the country suffer from some form of mental illness, and sadly millions more suffer in silence, fearing the stigmas that may go along with coming out.

### 2014 Campaign Cycle News:

**Associated Press:** Senators may force release of data hacking report

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rqx3AKSW](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rqx3AKSW)  
Seanna Adcox

Sen. Vincent Sheheen has proposed forcing Gov. Nikki Haley's administration to release the full report on how millions of taxpayers' personal data was stolen in 2012. Senators refused Thursday to kill Sheheen's budget amendment, with Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell casting the tie-breaking vote. Debate continues.

**Anderson Independent:** Senator: S.C. hacker received \$25,000 ransom

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/08/senator-sc-hacker-received-25000-ransom/>  
Kirk Brown

A state senator said Thursday that he believes federal authorities paid a \$25,000 ransom to the computer hacker who stole the personal data of 6.4 million residents from the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

**The State:** Graham challenger Det Bowers announces first TV ad

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434399/graham-challenger-det-bowers-releases.html#storylink=cpy>  
Jamie Self

Columbia pastor Det Bowers announced his first television ad in his bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. The 30-second ad will run statewide, according to a release from the campaign, and is backed by a "significant ad buy."

### Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**The State:** Legislature is inches away from total failure on ethics reform

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434433/legislature-is-inches-away-from.html#storylink=cpy>  
Cindi Scoppe

I'm very close to saying the Legislature needs to just stop talking about ethics, because it's increasingly clear that anything lawmakers manage to pass this year will be far short of what anyone other than a legislator would call "ethics reform" — and that it might very well weaken the current, inadequate law.

## Legislative Session News:

**Associated Press:** Leatherman: Panel is SC State's best hope

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H6xBxsID](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H6xBxsID)

Seanna Adcox

Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leatherman says South Carolina State University's best chance of survival comes from a panel of current and former college presidents he put together. Leatherman proposed Thursday adding a clause in the state budget that directs the five-member panel to work with SC State officials in developing a plan to stabilize the school.

**Post and Courier:** Legislature proposes S.C. State oversight commission

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140508/PC1603/140509402/1177/legislature-proposes-sc-state-oversight-commission>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. Senate is expected to vote Thursday to form an advisory committee that would have the power to oversee the state's only public historically black college, which faces severe budget woes and issues with its accreditation.

**Greenville News:** Plan on S.C. State financial troubles debated

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/08/plan-sc-state-financial-troubles-debated/8858429/>

Tim Smith

The Senate is debating a plan to address massive financial problems at South Carolina State University with a five-member panel that includes former Clemson University President Jim Barker, but one senator complained the plan would write the school a "blank check" and another objected to letting non-elected leaders decide what to do.

**The State:** Hugh Leatherman proposes S.C. State University advisory committee in state budget

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434739/advisory-committee-proposed-for.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Senate Finance chairman Hugh Leatherman wants to make an advisory committee of five current and former S.C. college presidents that would guide South Carolina State University through its financial turmoil part of next year's state budget.

**The State:** Consensus forms around mergers, audits as elections conference committee holds initial meeting; chairman hopes to finish work next week

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434632/consensus-forms-around-mergers.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Members of a six-man legislative committee signaled Thursday they would be willing to provide the state elections office with some oversight over county offices. But details remain unsettled and the conference committee will meet again soon, said Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee and committee chairman.

**The State:** SC senators spar over gay-themed books

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3433709/sc-senators-spar-over-gay-themed.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

State senators will resume debating Thursday whether to restore money that was cut from two S.C. colleges after the schools assigned freshmen to read gay-themed books. For hours Wednesday, senators debated the nearly \$70,000 cut by the S.C. House from the budgets of the College of Charleston and University of South Carolina Upstate.

**Associated Press:** House advances bill affirming '12 vote on Lt. Gov.

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

A House panel has advanced a measure affirming voters' decision to put candidates for governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket starting in 2018. The vote Thursday by a Judiciary subcommittee comes 18 months after voters approved the ballot question by 55 percent. The Senate passed the measure 39-1 in March 2013.



**The State:** Upscale beach community scores victory in seawall fight

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434707/upscale-beach-community-scores.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's 26-year-old seawall ban took another battering Thursday when a House committee voted to help an exclusive beach community rebuild a wall that protects fewer than 25 houses threatened by the ocean.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** Authorities: New protocol will help guard SC kids

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

Meg Kinnard

New guidelines and training opportunities for a variety of responders across the state will help protect South Carolina's children who have been living in places associated with drugs, state and federal officials said Thursday.

**The State:** SLED: Agency contractor used state money for personal use

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434689/sled-agency-contractor-used-state.html#storylink=cpy>

Anne-Kathryn Flanagan

A state agency contractor has been charged with breach of trust, according to the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Edwina Perteich Jackson, 39, of Columbia, was arrested Wednesday and charged with Breach of Trust with fraudulent intent, value \$10,000 or more in connection with unauthorized use of state funds.

**Associated Press:** State contractor charged with breach of trust

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WZQf5YPx](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WZQf5YPx)

A contractor with South Carolina's disabilities agency has been charged with breach of trust. The State Law Enforcement Division says 39-year-old Edwina Perteich Jackson was arrested Wednesday.

### **Local News:**

**Greenville News:** Radioactive water spills at Oconee nuke station

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/2014/05/08/radioactive-water-spills-oconee-nuke-station/8848685/>

Eric Connor

The Oconee Nuclear Station has experienced a spill of radioactive water, prompting concerns among environmentalists about the condition of aging nuclear plants, though government regulators say the incident was minor and no threat to the public's drinking water.

### **National News:**

**The Hill:** Study: ObamaCare premiums may see double-digit rise

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/205588-study-obamacare-premiums-may-see-double-digit-rise>

Ferdous Al Faruque

A leading healthcare analysis group said Thursday that insurance premiums in some states might see double digit increases this year under ObamaCare, but not because of age discrepancies. However, the group said increasing cost of medical care, use of services and new technology will mean exchange plans will need to increase their premiums, and the hikes will vary state by state.

**Associated Press:** HHS Nominee faces GOP questions on Health Law

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_HEALTH\\_NOMINEE?](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_NOMINEE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-08-10-19-07)

[SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-08-10-19-07](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_NOMINEE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-08-10-19-07)

Erica Werner

President Barack Obama's nominee for health secretary drew support from Republican senators Thursday even as they challenged the health law she would be charged with carrying out. Sylvia Mathews Burwell defended the Affordable Care Act, asserting that it has improved the economy, held down the growth of health costs, reduced premiums and expanded coverage.

**Reuters:** Obama health secretary nominee pledges bipartisan approach

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/08/us-usa-healthcare-burwell-idUSBREA4703L20140508>

David Morgan

Sylvia Mathews Burwell pledged on Thursday to take a fresh bipartisan approach to Congress on the law known as Obamacare, one of the most divisive issues in American politics, if confirmed by the Senate as the new U.S. health secretary.

Brian Symmes

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