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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, May 23, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: House approves MOX construction funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140523/AIK0101/140529781/1007/AIK0101/house-approves-mox-construction-funding>

Derrek Asberry

The United States House showed support for the Savannah River Site's MOX program on Thursday by green-lighting its version of the National Defense Authorization Bill.

Note: "Providing funding to finish the construction of the MOX facility is not just about holding the Obama administration accountable for their legal responsibilities; it's about doing what is best for South Carolina – which is why Governor Haley has fought alongside our federal delegation to ensure that it happens," said spokesman Doug Mayer. "Today, the House took a big step in the right direction and now it's time for the Senate to do the same."

Colleton Today: Amendment would block displacement of school board members

http://www.colletontoday.com/news/breaking-amendment-would-block-displacement-of-school-board-members/article_2f77d6b0-e200-11e3-a11c-001a4bcf887a.html

An amendment to a now controversial reapportionment bill could block the displacement of Colleton County School Board members and eliminate the need for a series of special elections.

Note: Governor Nikki Haley on May 16 signed into law a bill authored by Senator Clementa Pinckney (D-Ridgeland) calling for the lines of Colleton County's seven single-member school board voting districts to be redrawn according to adjusted population statistics from the 2010 census.

Island Packet: CBD oil bill moving to governor's desk for signature

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/22/3124320/cbd-oil-bill-moving-to-governors.html?sp=/99/257/266/#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

A bill that would allow children with severe epilepsy to use an oil extracted from marijuana to help control their seizures has been passed by the General Assembly. Gov. Nikki Haley has five days to sign or veto the bill. If she does neither, it automatically becomes law.

S.C. Political News:

Index-Journal: Bowers focused on June

Businessman part of crowded Republican field

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Bowers-focused-on-June/4/40/25665>

Chris Trainor

Det Bowers is a man on the move. With just 18 days until the June 10 primary, the Republican U.S. Senate candidate is doing his best to cover as much ground as possible across South Carolina. Bowers is one of a host of Republican hopefuls trying to unseat longtime U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in the.

The State: Pot sales derided, but other tax hikes on table, Democrats say in Superintendent debate

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/22/3462426/pot-sales-derided-but-other-tax.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Democrat Sheila Gallagher did not back off her proposal Thursday that S.C. voters should be asked whether they favor legalizing marijuana and using the tax revenue from pot sales to help pay for schools. But that position – revisited during a televised debate – found no support among the three other Democratic candidates for state superintendent of education.

Associated Press: Democrats discuss funding in superintendent debate

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

Andrew Coffman Smith

South Carolina's four Democratic candidates for superintendent of education squared off in a televised debate on Thursday, differing over how to increase school funding. The debate grew heated when former South Carolina Education Association president Sheila Gallagher reiterated her proposal to pay for education by legalizing marijuana.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: House bolsters ethics bill

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140523/PC1002/140529718/1021/back-stronger-ethics-bill>

Editorial

The S.C. House took a decisive step Wednesday toward clearing up and strengthening the laws designed to ensure that the state's elected officials conduct their jobs ethically. The bill has substance, and its approval by a vote of 110-0 is encouraging.

Note: It is disappointing that the bill does not call for independent adjudication of complaints, as did a blue ribbon committee appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley last year.

Rock Hill Herald: Lawmakers should revise sex-ed requirements

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/22/5990448/lawmakers-should-revise-sex-ed.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

The bill to update sex education in South Carolina public schools now making its way through the state Senate is a victory for both good health and common sense. The Senate Education Committee is considering a bill that would change the state's 26-year-old sex-education law by requiring the teaching of medically accurate health information.

Legislative Session News:

Times and Democrat: Consolidation would cost District 4, Turner says

http://thetandd.com/news/local/consolidation-would-cost-district-turner-says/article_8584d8a6-e231-11e3-9c9d-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Orangeburg Consolidated School District Four Superintendent Brenda Turner told trustees Tuesday night that a school consolidation bill would cost the district money. Overall, consolidation would be detrimental to the welfare of the district, she said.

Aiken Standard: House passes sales tax voter option, heads to Senate

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140522/AIK0101/140529737/1004/house-passes-sales-tax-voter-option-heads-to-senate>

Rob Novit

The S.C. General Assembly is moving closer to a sales tax legislative bill, but that measure itself doesn't actually result in a one-cent sales tax hike in Aiken County or anywhere other county in South Carolina. The bill passed the S.C. House on Thursday and will go to the Senate on Tuesday, May 27. If the Senate concurs, the bill will go to Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature.

Associated Press: Rep. Mitchell fined \$16K, ordered to repay \$7,400

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

Seanna Adcox

The House Ethics Committee on Thursday ordered Rep. Harold Mitchell to pay a \$16,100 fine and reimburse his campaign account nearly \$7,400 for improper expenses. The 10-person committee found the 48-year-old Spartanburg Democrat lacked required receipts, improperly withdrew cash from his account, paid campaign expenses with cash, failed to report contributions and expenses, and took out cash while depositing donations.

Speaker Harrell Investigation:

Greenville News: Harrell probe allowed to continue

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/22/sc-high-court-blocks-ruling-harrell->

[appeal/9435217/](#)

Tim Smith

A state grand jury investigation into House Speaker Bobby Harrell can proceed, at least for now. But Harrell said Thursday that he would ask the South Carolina Supreme Court to halt the investigation. The justices on Thursday issued an order noting that a ruling last week halting the investigation was automatically stayed once state Attorney General Alan Wilson appealed it.

The State: SC Supreme Court: AG Wilson and SLED can keep investigating Speaker Harrell pending appeal

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/22/3460909/sc-supreme-court-ag-wilson-and.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday morning that Attorney General Alan Wilson, SLED and the state grand jury can keep on investigating alleged ethics and other possible criminal violations against S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell pending Wilson's appeal of a lower court order.

The State: Should Justices Toal, Pleicones recuse themselves from Speaker Harrell case? Rules are vague

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/22/3462390/should-justices-toal-pleicones.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Rules governing whether state Supreme Court justices should recuse, or excuse, themselves from hearing a matter due to potential conflicts allow justices in most cases to make up their own minds whether to bow out of a case.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Congress raises Savannah harbor price tag to \$706M

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pM7TA8ZM

Russ Bynum

Congress gave final approval Thursday to a new spending limit for deepening the Savannah harbor that raises the project's price tag to \$706 million, an increase of 8 percent from just two years ago. The new authorized cost for expanding the busy shipping channel to the Port of Savannah was contained in a sweeping water-projects bill that passed the Senate.

Associated Press: SC hails program cutting down on young prisoners

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=orzu3nlq

The South Carolina Department of Corrections is taking a moment to mark the accomplishments of a program that aims to cut down on youthful offenders in the state's facilities. Department officials are gathering at the agency's headquarters on Friday for a Founder's Day celebration.

Local News:

The State: Lexington 2 settles on \$225 million school upgrade plan

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/22/3462383/lexington-2-settles-on-225-million.html#storylink=cpy>

Tim Flach

Lexington 2 School Board members settled Thursday on a \$225 million plan for new schools and renovations. The package – the first improvements sought for classrooms since 2002 – will go to voters for approval Nov. 4.

Island Packet: School board certifies \$192.9M district budget; reduces contribution to ACE

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/22/3124705/school-board-certifies-1929m-district.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

The Beaufort County Board of Education certified a \$192.9-million budget Thursday night that reduces its contribution to the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence. In an 8-2 vote --with Earl Campbell and Michael Rivers opposed and Evva Anderson absent -- the board voted to reduce the contribution from roughly \$2.3 million to just under \$2.1 million.

National News:

Associated Press: Veteran health care woes become campaign issue

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_VETERANS_HEALTH_CARE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-22-18-57-57

Matthew Daly

The growing furor over veterans' health care moved to the political campaigns Thursday as congressional candidates from both parties called for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to be fired. Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, who is challenging Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in Kentucky, was among those calling for Shinseki's removal amid investigations of VA patients dying while awaiting treatment and falsified appoint records.

Washington Post: Obama to nominate Julian Castro as HUD secretary

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/05/22/obama-to-nominate-julian-castro-as-hud-secretary/>

Katie Zezima

President Obama is scheduled to announce Friday that he will nominate San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro as the next secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Castro will replace Shaun Donovan, who Obama will name as head of the White House Office of Management and Budget, a White House official said.

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