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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, May 12, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Nuances differentiate GOP education superintendent contenders
http://thetandd.com/news/local/nuances-differentiate-gop-education-superintendent-contenders/article_64febbd2-d98b-11e3-a597-0019bb2963f4.html

Andrew Coffman Smith

In the crowded Republican race for state superintendent, opposition to Common Core has started to sound like white noise at candidate forums. What the eight candidates do to separate themselves from the pack will go a long way in determining who wins the party's nomination for the top education post.

Note: They advocate vocational career training, funding of the 'STEM' fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and support of Gov. Nikki Haley's \$30 million plan to boost the technology infrastructure of rural schools.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: S.C. Democrats pin hopes on Sheheen this year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140511/PC1610/140519932/1031/sc-democrats-pin-hopes-on-sheheen-this-year>

Robert Behre

As goes state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's gubernatorial bid, so goes South Carolina's Democratic party. That's what political observers say now that filing has closed and the contests are gearing up. State Democratic Chair Jamie Harrison agreed.

USA Today: S.C.'s Lindsey Graham tries to outflank six GOP rivals

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/05/11/lindsey-graham-primary/8451785/>

David Jackson

Here's one of the safest bets in American politics: Incumbent Sen. Lindsey Graham will win the most votes when South Carolina Republicans hold their primary on June 10. The question is whether Graham will get more than 50%, thereby avoiding a risky runoff.

Associated Press: SC 2-star general, opponent in odd election

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DhqVW7XF

Susanne M. Shafer

Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston has commanded the 9,000 members of South Carolina's Army and Air National Guard for nearly four years. In 2007, he led the state's largest combat force since World War II on a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Guiding S.C. State to recovery

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140512/PC1002/140519890/1021/guiding-sc-state-to-recovery>

Editorial

By voting to establish an advisory committee to oversee South Carolina State University, the state Senate is acknowledging what everyone knows: The school is in serious financial trouble and has been for years. But the vote also sends a message that state legislators want the state's only public historically black college to succeed.

Island Packet: All people must be equal under the law

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/11/3102662/all-people-must-be-equal-under.html?>

[sp=/99/342/#storylink=cpy](http://www.thetandd.com/news/opinion/court-stands-with-religious-freedom-in-prayer-ruling/article_439ffcaad894-11e3-8430-0019bb2963f4.html)

Editorial

Every school child knows that America stands for liberty and justice for all. Every South Carolinian should be guaranteed that justice is equal for all. Yet House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, has argued in state court that public corruption allegations against him should be weighed by a legislative committee he appoints, and is staffed by employees who work at his pleasure.

Times and Democrat: Court stands with religious freedom in prayer ruling

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/court-stands-with-religious-freedom-in-prayer-ruling/article_439ffcaad894-11e3-8430-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling on prayer at the beginning of government meetings won't end debate about separation of church and state, but it is a correct decision that goes to the root of the constitutional guarantees of freedom to practice a religion as well as protection from government-sanctioned religion.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Gowdy says Benghazi Probe not about politics

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/12/gowdy-says-benghazi-probe-politics/8987325/>

Clark Brooks

U.S. Rep Trey Gowdy, clarifying earlier comments, said Sunday that he does not consider his investigation of Benghazi to be a trial, nor the White House a defendant, as he prepares to head a new committee "to go wherever the facts take us" in the attack that resulted in the deaths of four Americans at the U.S. mission in Libya.

Legislative Session News:

Greenville News: Conflict grows over assigned books

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/12/conflict-grows-assigned-books/8987667/>

Anna Lee

Since House legislators voted to cut \$70,000 from the University of South Carolina Upstate and College of Charleston budgets after they assigned books with homosexual themes, writers across the country have taken up a viral campaign to speak out against what they call government censorship.

Times and Democrat: Lawmakers focus on providing 'medically accurate' sex ed

http://thetandd.com/news/local/lawmakers-focus-on-providing-medically-accurate-sex-ed/article_1a032f0cd989-11e3-9283-0019bb2963f4.html

Dionne Gleaton

State lawmakers are considering a sex education reform bill that updates the information that should be taught to students. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, a co-sponsor, said the bill is a step in the right direction, but more work remains.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Legal aid program for veterans kicks off in SC

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

Officials are starting an effort to offer legal aid to veterans in South Carolina. The Lawyers 4 Vets program is holding a gala opening Monday at the VA Medical Center in Columbia. State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal and Attorney General Alan Wilson are among officials expected for the event.

Greenville News: Artists declare this year's Artisphere a 'good' one

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/12/artists-declare-years-artisphere-good-one/8987203/>

Lillia Callum-Penso

The rain storms Friday and Saturday had moved out by Sunday, making for a beautiful final day of Artisphere presented by TD Bank. As the crowds of families, friends and celebrated mothers began to swell on Main Street, the festival's participating artists breathed a collective sigh of satisfaction that this year's event was a good one.

Associated Press: SC Inland Port to get more landscaping

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rFZU21QG

The Greer City Council will help pay for additional landscaping in an effort to reduce noise from traffic at the South Carolina Inland Port. The Greenville News reported (<http://grmol.co/RzxXHA>) that the project has already begun and includes more trees and shrubs. Mayor Rick Danner says the city will contribute \$8,100 to the landscaping.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston wants the county and school district to extend tax incentives for two development plans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140512/PC16/140519928/1177/charleston-wants-the-county-and-school-district-to-extend-tax-incentives-for-two-development-plans>

David Slade

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley is asking the county and the school district to add a decade to a pair of tax incentives meant to help finance two large urban redevelopment projects, in the downtown hospital district and in the Neck Area.

The State: Columbia residents' bill for Bull Street projects pushing \$200M over 30 years

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/11/3441178/columbia-residents-bill-for-bull.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

When the final payments are made 30 years from now on announced public commitments to the Bull Street neighborhood, the price tag could be \$199 million – and that bill for taxpayers could grow. That assessment is based on current estimates from City Hall finance officials who have projected the overall cost of borrowing to cover \$86.1 million in projects:

Island Packet: School district continues battle against bullying, says it needs help

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/11/3105835/school-district-continues-battle.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

The apparent suicide of a Robert Smalls Middle School sixth-grader has devastated the community. Although 12-year-old Celeste Wills no longer has a voice, her death has evoked boisterous pleas and loud demands for schools to do more to combat bullying and raise awareness about depression.

Greenville News: Whooping cough causes concern in Pickens County

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/12/whooping-cough-causes-concern-pickens-county/8987555/>

Liv Osby

At this time last year, there were 66 cases statewide. But of the 30 cases reported in the state so far this year, 13 have been in Pickens County, including two cases at West End Elementary and Forest Acres Elementary that were reported in March, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

National News:

The Hill: GOP goes quiet on ObamaCare

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/205752-gop-goes-quiet-on-o-care>

Elise Viebeck

House Republicans have no scheduled votes or hearings on ObamaCare, signaling a shift in the party's strategy as the White House rides a wave of good news on the law. Not a single House committee has announced plans to attack the healthcare law in the coming weeks, and only one panel of jurisdiction commented to The Hill despite repeated inquiries.

Wall Street Journal: Benghazi Panel Shows House GOP Flexing Power of the Probe

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303627504579555873058990970?mg=reno64-wsj>

Michael R. Crittenden

After House Republicans named a special panel Friday to investigate the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) celebrated on Twitter. A graphic with smiling headshots of the

committee's seven GOP lawmakers was quickly posted, followed by a photo of the group huddling around a conference table at their first meeting.

Associated Press: A look at all that 'Benghazi' stands for

http://www.scnw.com/news/national/article_78ba253e-d92d-11e3-b626-0017a43b2370.html

To congressional Republicans, "Benghazi" is shorthand for incompetence and cover-up. Democrats hear it is as the hollow sound of pointless investigations. It is, in fact, a Mediterranean port city in Libya that was the site of a deadly attack on an American diplomatic compound on the 11th anniversary of 9/11 that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

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