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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 26, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham praises Haley on abortion ban bill, wishes rape and incest exceptions were included

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC1603/160529495>

Emma Dumain

Gov. Nikki Haley is facing criticism for signing a bill into law making it a crime for a woman to get an abortion after the 20-week threshold, with no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has been pushing a nearly identical bill on Capitol Hill to extend the ban across all states — except his proposal includes those exceptions. “I feel better with the exceptions,” Graham told The Post and Courier on Thursday, a day after Haley’s bill signing in Columbia. “That’s where I’ve always been on this issue.”

General Assembly News:

Associated Press: House panel could recommend criminal charges for SC worker

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

Jeffrey Collins

A House committee has been asked to determine whether a Department of Public Safety official lied to lawmakers and should face criminal charges. The subcommittee investigating the agency voted Thursday to ask the full House Legislative Oversight Committee to review comments made by Human Resources Director Tosha Autry. At the May 5 meeting, lawmakers played a tape of Autry saying there were times when it was OK to lie. She says the comment was misunderstood and she was saying human resources information workers sometimes can't tell everything they know.

Associated Press: SC House adds dashcam item to public records overhaul bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2y2iPiEr

SC State Wire

The House has again passed a major overhaul of South Carolina's public records law to try and work around the objections of one senator. The proposal passed 93-1 on Thursday would shorten the amount of time governments have to answer Freedom of Information Act requests and prevent them from charging excessive fees. It also would create an agency to hear disputes between public bodies and people requesting information.

Associated Press: Legislators agree to study moving Confederate Relic Room

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SSbpHdT3

SC State Wire

Legislators aren't spending any money next fiscal year to display the Confederate flag sent to a museum last summer as they await an analysis on moving the entire museum to Charleston. A legislative panel negotiating a final spending plan for 2016-17 approved a budget clause that requires an analysis of available museum space in Charleston and a cost estimate for moving the state's military history museum there. A report is due Jan. 10.

Associated Press: House passes different income disclosure bill for officials

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BE6dXJX9

SC State Wire

The House has rejected the Senate's changes in a bill that would require lawmakers and other public employees to report their income from private companies. The House passed two amendments to the Senate bill Thursday. One would require public officials to report the amount as well as the source of the income. The second would require nonprofit organizations to reveal who gives the money they spend on elections and other political campaigns. The Senate likely won't agree to those changes.

Post and Courier: Panel looks at regulating demonstrations on Statehouse grounds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC1603/160529499>

Gavin Jackson

A legislative panel breathed new life into the possibility of regulations aimed at limiting dangerous demonstrations on Statehouse grounds following multiple protest arrests last year. The State House Committee received draft regulations Thursday. A major change would be to require a permitting process for Statehouse demonstrations. During that process, law enforcement agencies would give the Department of Administration input on whether to deny a permit if an event posed a public safety risk.

Savannah River Site/MOX News:

Associated Press: Regional group not allowed into SC nuke fuel lawsuit

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=t3tjV1Hs

Meg Kinnard

A federal judge has ruled that a regional economic development group can't be part of South Carolina's lawsuit against the U.S. Energy Department over an incomplete nuclear fuel project. U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs on Wednesday rejected the request by the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, saying the nonprofit group doesn't have legal standing to intervene in the dispute between the state and federal governments. Childs also wrote that the group's participation in the case "would complicate the litigation, potentially unduly delay the adjudication of the case on the merits, and generate little, if any, corresponding benefit to the existing parties."

LGBT Laws:

Charlotte Observer: Sen. Richard Burr: HB2 'too expansive'

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article79751622.html>

Jim Morrill

Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Burr told The Huffington Post that North Carolina's Republican lawmakers went too far when they passed House Bill 2, and need to rein it in before a judge does it for them. "Yeah, I've got issues," Burr said after The Huffington Post asked him if he had problems with the law known as HB2. "The legislature botched what they were trying to do," he said. "It was far too expansive."

Post and Courier: South Carolina lawmakers help sink spending bill, cite LGBT protection amendment among the reasons

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC1603/160529497>

Emma Dumain

Five of the six Republicans in the S.C. congressional delegation joined with 125 GOP colleagues to sink an energy and water spending bill Thursday, irked by a provision barring the government from hiring federal contractors that discriminate against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender individuals. U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C., characterized it as a "religious liberty" issue in explaining part of the rationale for his "no" vote. U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., agreed. "I'm a believer in Jesus Christ as my savior," he recently explained. "I also believe in the First Amendment, religious liberty."

SC Agency News:

Associated Press: SC inspector general praises DJJ for response to riots

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=F54RAGMZ

Jeffrey Collins

Leaders at South Carolina's Department of Juvenile Justice were slow to recognize problems that led to riots at its main prison but are taking decisive steps to regain control, the state inspector general said. Several issues over a few years combined to create bigger problems at the agency, according to the report Inspector General Patrick Maley presented to a joint committee of Senate and House members Thursday. There was a lack of serious punishment for misbehavior along with an increase in gang activity and a policy to move less violent offenders to wilderness camps, concentrating the most dangerous inmates at the agency's main Columbia prison.

The State: Juvenile Justice unsafe, guards untrained before riots, SC watchdog says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80023362.html>

Jamie Self

Guards overseeing the state's youthful inmates said they felt in danger before recent riots at a Columbia facility, the state's watchdog told lawmakers Thursday. Those guards also felt like there were no consequences for bad behavior by youthful offenders at the Department of Juvenile Justice facility. S.C. Inspector General Patrick Maley also said guards were not adequately trained to deal with out-of-control inmates.

Post and Courier: S.C. inspector general cites shortfalls, highlights improvements at DJJ since February riot

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC1603/160529496>

Maya T. Prabhu

After three severe incidents at Department of Juvenile Justice facilities within an eight-month period, the South Carolina inspector general told a panel of legislators that poor execution of established plans led to a violent February riot. Inspector Patrick Maley said Thursday that DJJ officials established a plan after a September outbreak but that it had not been implemented and ready at the time of the February disturbance. "If they had executed that plan with the level they had executed it in March, I believe that would have been a success story," Maley said.

WACH: SC Inspector General weighs in on crisis at DJJ

<http://wach.com/news/local/sc-inspector-general-weighs-in-on-crisis-at-djj>

Tara Pettit A joint committee of Senate and House members met Thursday to hear testimony from the Department of Juvenile Justice and the state's Inspector General. Committees from the House and Senate have been looking into the agency since multiple riots broke out at the Department's Broad River Road facility. The joint hearing was scheduled after a WACH FOX News investigation opened new details about a riot that took place on February 26th. South Carolina Inspector General Patrick Maley testified for nearly an hour, giving his thoughts on where the agency stands. The General has been doing his own investigation into several matters at DJJ.

Associated Press: Audit recommends merging DOT, highway borrowing agency

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yi9Iz8Ew

Seanna Adcox

State auditors are recommending that the Legislature either close the South Carolina agency that borrows and doles out money for large highway and bridge projects or make it part of the Department of Transportation. The report Thursday by the Legislative Audit Council says combining the agencies would allow for better coordination and prioritization of highway projects, focus accountability in a single agency and keep project decisions in the executive branch.

The State: Put Infrastructure Bank under S.C. roads agency, audit says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80010342.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. Transportation Infrastructure bank should be consolidated under the state's main Transportation Department, according to an audit of the state agency released Thursday. "During our review, we found no function performed by (the Infrastructure Bank) that could not also be performed by discontinuing" the Infrastructure Bank and transferring its money to the Transportation Department, the S.C. Legislative Audit Council found.

Post and Courier: Infrastructure bank could move under SCDOT, report finds

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC1603/160529513>

Gavin Jackson

A report by the Statehouse's investigative arm found the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which was behind the financing of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge Jr., would be better off merged with the state Department of Transportation. "During our review, we found no function performed by SCTIB that could not also be performed by discontinuing the SCTIB and transferring its funds to SCDOT," the Legislative Audit Council said Thursday. Since the bank's inception in 1997, its seven-member board has awarded \$4.8 billion in grants and loans, with more than \$1.4 billion sent to the Charleston tri-county area.

Greenville News: Challenges raised to how infrastructure bank shared road funds

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/05/26/challenges-raised-to-how-state-transportation-infrastructure-bank-shared-road-funds/84974746/>

Tim Smith

The state agency that has financed almost \$5 billion in transportation projects has awarded funds to projects without an application, has no formal policies for awarding funding, and does not announce publicly when it has funds available, according to a critical Legislative Audit Council report that suggests the agency be merged with the state's highway agency. The report comes as the Legislature is poised to approve a bill that could eventually result in the state borrowing more than \$2 billion through the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

SC Elections:

The Herald: GPS Conservatives endorse 5 in York County GOP races

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article80098702.html>

Bristow Marchant

Five Republicans running in contested races in the June primary have received the backing of a York County conservative group. The GPS Conservatives for Action PAC formally endorsed the five candidates via email this week, all but one a challenger to an incumbent or a candidate for an open seat. U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, is the only incumbent to receive an endorsement from the group. Mulvaney, an congressman since he managed to knock off longtime incumbent John Spratt in the 5th Congressional District during the tea party wave of 2010, is facing a primary challenge June 14 from nonprofit coordinator Ray Craig.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: List of Dr. Beach's 10 best beaches for 2016

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

SC State Wire

List of 10 best beaches for 2016 as designated by Stephen Leatherman, also known as Dr. Beach, a professor at Florida International University: Beachwalker Park, Kiawah Island, South Carolina

Post and Courier: Low gas prices to lead to crowded roads this Memorial Day

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC16/160529507>

Warren L. Wise

If you are hitting the road this holiday weekend, expect lots of company. Because of lower gas prices, motor club AAA Carolinas predicts 2.1 percent more people from North Carolina and South Carolina will drive to their destinations over Memorial Day weekend, which it measures from Thursday through Monday. Nearly 1.54 million Carolinians will be driving to a holiday spot during the long weekend. That's 31,600 more than last year, according to AAA. Top driving destinations include Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Savannah and Orlando.

Associated Press: Georgia seeks death penalty for suspect in killing of priest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SdB5Av2d

SC State Wire

A Georgia prosecutor says she intends to seek the death penalty against a man charged with murder after leading authorities to the body of a missing Florida priest. The Augusta Chronicle reports (bit.ly/1sRvZpk) that District Attorney Ashley Wright filed notice this week that she will seek the death penalty for 28-year-old Steve James Murray of Jacksonville, Florida.

WIS: SCHP uses emojis to get anti-drunken driving message across

<http://www.wistv.com/story/32073139/schp-uses-emojis-to-get-anti-drunk-driving-message-across>

Mary King

For years, the South Carolina Highway Patrol has been telling people not to drink and drive. Now troopers are using a new language to spread the message. They've started a public safety campaign with emojis that you'll start to see around the state. For people who don't have smartphones, emojis are little symbols users can use in digital messages instead of words. One of the billboards is posted off Broad River Road promoting the Sober or Slammer campaign. It shows the icons of "drinking," "plus," "driving," "equals," "police car."

Local News:

Associated Press: Another Round: Myrtle Beach delays action on bar closings

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gZRLIf69

SC State Wire

People can still buy another round after 2 a.m. in bars in Myrtle Beach. City council is considering an ordinance that would require nightclubs to close between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. in the city that is the heart of South Carolina's \$19 billion tourism industry. But The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/1Z2onKe>) the council has delayed an initial vote so city leaders can meet with the owners of nightspots to discuss the move.

Associated Press: Del Webb building new South Carolina retirement community

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Lv9Jayjt

SC State Wire

Del Webb is building another retirement community in South Carolina. The Post and Courier of Charleston reports (<http://bit.ly/1TGbvbp>) work begins later this year on Del Webb Nexton in Summerville. The Del Webb development will consist of more than 1,000 homes with a clubhouse, pools, tennis courts and other amenities. It will be built on a 350-acre tract and will open in 2018.

The State: S.C. board approves winding down Charleston's I-526 extension

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80057052.html>

Cassie Cope

The fate of \$420 million slated for the extension of Interstate 526 in Charleston County is unknown after the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank approved Thursday winding down the project. The

board determined Charleston County did not meet a **deadline** to come up with a plan to pay \$300-plus million to extend I-526, also known as the Mark Clark project. When approved, in 2006, the \$420 million in state money would have paid the entire cost to extend I-526 across Johns Island. The interstate now ends in West Ashley.

Post and Courier: Infrastructure Bank board closes the door on I-526 extension

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC16/160529508>

Diane Knich

The S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank board on Thursday dealt the biggest blow ever to plans for completing Interstate 526 across James and Johns islands, a decades-old project that deeply divided the community. The long-stalled project to connect I-526 from where it currently ends in West Ashley to where the James Island connector begins at Folly Road won't be built, at least not any time soon. After almost three hours of discussion about keeping the project alive by building it as a toll road, the board voted 4-1 to close the door on it. Only State Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, voted against the motion.

Post and Courier: Charleston port officials, environmentalists disagree over viability of cruise ships at Veterans Terminal

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160526/PC05/160529493>

David Wren

The Southern Environmental Law Center on Thursday called for the State Ports Authority to move its proposed cruise ship terminal away from the city's Historic District and to Veterans Terminal in North Charleston — something the maritime agency says it can't do because of prohibitive costs and wharf damage that hasn't been repaired. Meanwhile, the environmental group is asking state Attorney General Alan Wilson to reconsider a formal opinion he issued this year saying the proposed terminal is exempt from the need for a state permit. The law center and historic preservation groups are suing the SPA over whether a previously issued state permit was properly granted, and the state's Court of Appeals is expected to hear the case this summer.

National News:

Associated Press: Delegates in hand, Trump says he's got GOP nomination

<http://bigstory.ap.org/6fb6b090e8734d8593c0dc65658a4afa>

Stephen Ohlemacher and Jill Colvin

With a triumphant pile of delegates in hand, Republican Donald Trump on Thursday claimed support from "almost everybody" in his party and turned his attention to his likely Democratic presidential opponent, Hillary Clinton, who is still locked in a divisive primary contest. The New York billionaire reached the number of delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination hours earlier, according to the Associated Press count, just before a North Dakota campaign stop. It completed his unlikely rise that has upended the political landscape and set the stage for a bitter fall campaign. "Here I am watching Hillary fight, and she can't close the deal," he told reporters. "We've had tremendous support from almost everybody."

Associated Press: Mister 1,237: North Dakota delegate puts Trump over the top

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a382673514394788b45cfc109d0febe4>

Stephen Ohlemacher

John Trandem wanted to be the delegate who would put Donald Trump over the top, giving him enough delegates to clinch the Republican presidential nomination. But when he was contacted by an Associated Press reporter, the AP delegate count stood at 1,235 — two delegates short. "I'm happy to be No. 1,237," said Trandem, a small business owner from North Dakota. "But I won't commit until you're at 1,236." Trandem is an unbound delegate, meaning he is free to support the candidate of his choice. All 28 Republican delegates in North Dakota are unbound because the state party declined to have a primary or caucus.

Associated Press: Clinton says IG report won't affect her presidential bid

<http://bigstory.ap.org/50352bef90604eb58264610b1a1627c9>

Michael Biesecker

Hillary Clinton contends a new government audit critical of her use of a private email server as secretary of state won't affect her Democratic presidential campaign. In an interview with Univision's Los Angeles affiliate, Clinton said "nothing has changed" following Wednesday's release of a report by the State Department's inspector general. That analysis found Clinton ignored clear guidance that her email setup broke agency rules and could have left government secrets vulnerable to hackers. "There may be reports that come out, but nothing has changed," Clinton said. "It's the same story. Just like previous secretaries of state, I used a personal email. Many people did. It was not at all unprecedented. I have turned over all my emails. No one else can say that."

Associated Press: Baylor demotes Starr, fires coach amid sex assaults scandal

<http://bigstory.ap.org/4a0a7f57907342c89e89fefbf811a093>

Jim Vertuno

Baylor University demoted school President Ken Starr and fired football coach Art Briles on Thursday, issuing a scathing report over the university's handling of sexual assault complaints against players. The board of regents at the nation's largest Baptist university said in a statement that Starr, a former prosecutor who investigated the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal, will vacate the presidency on May 31 and stay on as school chancellor. It said it suspended Briles "with intent to terminate" and placed athletic director Ian McCaw on probation. Starr asked a law firm last year to review Baylor's handling of sexual assault cases following allegations that the school mishandled several cases in which football players were accused of attacking women.

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