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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 1, 2014

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2014 Campaign Cycle News:

MSNBC: Chris Christie to visit Iowa, South Carolina

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/christie-iowa-south-carolina>

Aliyah Frumin

Embattled New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie may no longer be at the front of the pack in the nascent race to be the 2016 Republican presidential nominee, but that's not preventing him from scheduling stops in the early voting states of Iowa and South Carolina.

Note: Christie – who chairs the Republican Governors Association – will fundraise on behalf of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, both of whom are up for re-election this fall, the RGA confirmed to msnbc.

The State: Vincent Sheheen seeks probe of allegations that Gov. Nikki Haley's office obstructed child-death panel

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/01/3420809/vincent-sheheen-seeks-probe-of.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/>

Andrew Shain

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, the Democratic challenger for governor, has called for a special committee to investigate allegations that Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and her staff tried to obstruct a Senate probe into child deaths related to the S.C. Department of Social Services.

Note: Gov. Haley's office said neither she nor anyone on her staff intimidated panel members. "This is ridiculous election year politics and Vincent Sheheen should be ashamed of the way he is manipulating the deaths of children for his own benefit," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said,

Note: Haley said she had no comment, but her office released a statement: "The difference between Gov. Haley and Vincent Sheheen is that the governor is actually working to prevent the deaths of more innocent children, while Vincent Sheheen views them as his political props of the week."

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: Abortion bills among those not meeting SC deadline

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

Seanna Adcox

Bills that would outlaw abortion and strengthen South Carolina's open records law are among those unlikely to survive. Legislation that didn't advance from one chamber to the other by Thursday has little chance of becoming law this year.

Post and Courier: 20-week abortion ban moves to S.C. Senate floor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC1603/140509969/1177/20-week-abortion-ban-moves-to-sc-senate-floor>

Jeremy Borden

A bill that would ban and criminalize abortion at 20 weeks moved to the Senate floor Thursday, as lawmakers grappled over the abortion question and one compared it to the Holocaust. Supporters of the bill say the 20-week mark is important because it's the age when a fetus can feel pain, though this notion is disputed in the medical community.

Greenville News: Abortion bill advances to Senate floor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/01/abortion-bill-advances-senate-floor/8557839/>

Tim Smith

A bill banning abortions at 20 weeks is headed to the Senate floor after debate that referenced the Holocaust and murder. Whether the bill, originally sponsored by Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville and

passed by the House in March, comes to a vote before the Senate leaves next month remains a question, however.

Anderson Independent: Bill banning abortions after 19 weeks of pregnancy moves to S.C. Senate floor
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/01/bill-banning-abortions-after-19-weeks-of-moves/>
Kirk Brown

A bill outlawing abortions after the 19th week of pregnancy was approved by a South Carolina Senate committee Thursday, but not before a number of exceptions were added to the measure. Senate Medical Affairs Committee members agreed to allow abortions beyond the 19th week of pregnancy in cases involving rape, incest and severe fetal anomalies.

Associated Press: SC Senate approves replacing Common Core in 1 year
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BxdkxB7z
Seanna Adcox

The Senate has unanimously approved a bill to replace Common Core education standards with those homegrown in South Carolina by the 2015-16 school year. The bill which passed 42-0 on Thursday is a compromise of legislation that initially sought to repeal math and reading standards already rolled out in classrooms statewide.

Greenville News: Craft beer bill introduced
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/01/craft-beer-bill-introduced/8561939/>
Eric Connor

A craft beer bill designed to make South Carolina more attractive for a West Coast brewery's \$31 million eastward expansion has been introduced in the state House of Representatives.

The State: How they voted: Senate budget-writers restore funding to colleges
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/30/3419539/senate-budget-writers-restore.html#storylink=cpy>
Cassie Cope

Senate budget writers voted Wednesday to restore about \$70,000 in state money to two S.C. colleges, money the S.C. House voted to cut for assigning gay-themed books. The Senate Finance Committee also voted to give legislators, in effect, a \$12,000-a-year raise.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: SC has much work ahead to prevent data breaches
<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/04/30/3085994/sc-has-much-work-ahead-to-prevent.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>
Editorial

It's been 19 months since hackers stole unencrypted data of 6.4 million S.C. residents and businesses from the Department of Revenue. South Carolina is left with more questions than answers. No one has been arrested in the case. It's impossible to say how many, if any, people and merchants became identity theft victims because of the hacking.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Aiken Standard: Graham gets 'harsh' with officials over MOX
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140501/AIK0101/140509986/1004/graham-gets-harsh-with-officials-over-mox>
Derrek Asberry

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. warned National Nuclear Security Administration officials that he was going to be "a bit harsh" before asking why officials with the administration shouldn't be fired for going back on an agreement to finish completing the Savannah River Site's MOX facility.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: 2nd hearing scheduled in Harrell corruption case
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O3MpfCJ8
Meg Kinnard

Another hearing is planned on a request to remove South Carolina's top prosecutor from the ethics case of

House Speaker Bobby Harrell. In an email sent to reporters on Thursday, State Grand Jury Clerk Jim Parks said that a hearing had been scheduled for Friday morning at the Richland County Courthouse.

The State: Judge Manning sets Friday hearing in Speaker Harrell's effort to stop Attorney General
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/01/3420663/judge-manning-sets-friday-hearing.html#storylink=cpy>
John Monk

A circuit court judge has set Friday morning as the time for a hearing over whether State Attorney General Alan Wilson should be disqualified from having the state grand jury investigate criminal allegations against S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

Post and Courier: Bobby Harrell hearing scheduled for Friday
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC16/140509967/1006/>
Schuyler Kropf

A hearing in the House Speaker Bobby Harrell ethics investigation has been set for Friday in Columbia. The state Grand Jury clerk's office said the hearing is set for 11 a.m. in front of Judge L. Casey Manning in the Richland County Courthouse, courtroom 2-B.

Post and Courier: Obamacare enrollment tops 118,000 in South Carolina
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC16/140509958/1177/obamacare-enrollment-tops-118000-in-south-carolina>

Lauren Sausser
More than 118,000 residents in South Carolina bought health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace between October and mid-April, a new federal report shows.

Associated Press: 118,000 sign up for health care in SC with new law
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=59F3q0ft
About 118,000 South Carolina residents signed up for health insurance under the new federal health care law, The data released Thursday by President Barack Obama's administration shows nearly 214,000 people filled out applications for health care, but about 45 percent of them didn't complete the process and pick a plan.

Post and Courier: Decision deferred on whether to grant InfiLaw System a license to operate Charleston School of Law
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC16/140509972/1006/>
Diane Knich

The state Commission on Higher Education will not decide today whether to grant a license to InfiLaw System to operate the private Charleston School of Law. After extensive research, staff recommended that the commission approve the license for InfiLaw.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Debris cleanup nearly completed three months after ice storm hits South Carolina
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140501/PC16/140509961/1006/>
Natalie Caula Hauff

The cleanup of debris from the February ice storm that struck South Carolina is nearly done. S.C. Department of Transportation officials announced Thursday that the debris removal operation will be completed by next week. On March 14, DOT notified the public that any storm-related vegetative debris should be left on the right-of-way roadside for pickup no later than March 24.

Anderson Independent: Local farmers markets open throughout the Upstate
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/01/local-farmers-markets-open-throughout-the/?partner=RSS>
Abe Hardesty

A longer, colder winter in the Upstate will mean a longer wait for fresh local fruits and vegetables. "I'm hearing that the farms are about a month behind schedule," said Anderson Farmers Market manager Sharon Nicomento, whose market is scheduled to open Saturday.

Sun News: State auditors to look at failed Coast RTA bus shelter program
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/01/4200661/state-auditors-to-look-at-failed.html?>

[sp=/99/134/142/#storylink=cpy](http://www.fox43.com/storylink=cpy)

Jason Rodriguez

External auditors will take a look at the failed Coast RTA bus shelter program before the S.C. Department of Transportation decides on whether it allow the transit to take 10 years to pay the more than \$324,000 debt it owes the state.

National News:

National Review: Report: Only 67 Percent of Obamacare Enrollees Have Paid First Month's Premium

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/376991/report-only-67-percent-obamacare-enrollees-have-paid-first-months-premium-andrew>

Andrew Johnson

In a statement on Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee called claims of the law's success "unfounded" after it revealed that data provided by insurance providers shows only two-thirds of enrollees on the federal marketplace had paid the first month's premiums.

Elon Poll: Elon Poll: Kay Hagan's approval stalls as Thom Tillis grows name recognition

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Article/93392>

Of the Republican frontrunners in a primary election bid to unseat Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan later this year, according to the latest Elon University Poll, only one has developed significantly higher levels of name recognition in recent months: Thom Tillis, the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

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