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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 22, 2014

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## Afternoon Clips – Thursday, May 22, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**WLTX:** Senate Confirms Oakley as SC Transportation Secretary

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/local/2014/05/22/janet-oakley-transportation-secretary/9448879/>

Tony Santaella

Oakley has worked in the transportation industry for 30 years, the last 15 of which as the director of policy and government relations for the American Association of Transportation Officials. There, she coordinated with state DOTs to support innovation in transportation leadership.

**Note:** Governor Nikki Haley said when she nominated her for the job that she wants Oakley to focus on improving South Carolina's infrastructure statewide.

**Post and Courier:** Gov. Nikki Haley one of Working Mother magazine's 50 Most Powerful Moms

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140522/PC1603/140529785/1005/gov-nikki-haley-one-of-working-mother-magazines-50-most-powerful-moms>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was listed as one of the 50 Most Powerful Moms of 2014 in a recent article on Working Mother magazine's website, according to a story at IndiaWest.com, a website aimed at the global Indian community.

### Legislative Session News:

**Post and Courier:** University of Charleston bill on fast track with donor on tap

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140522/PC1610/140529757/1031/university-of-charleston-bill-on-fast-track-with-donor-on-tap>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. Senate voted Thursday to place a bill that would allow for a newly expanded University of Charleston on its schedule without going through the normal process, increasing the bill's chances for passage in the last days of the state's legislative session.

**The State:** Rep. Harold Mitchell hit with \$23,387 in penalties over campaign spending complaints

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/22/3460895/rep-harold-mitchell-hit-with-23387.html?sp=/99/132/312/169/#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. Rep. Harold Mitchell was ordered Thursday to pay \$23,387 in fines and restitution for improperly handling his campaign accounts and spending donations for non-campaign-related expenses. For two years, the S.C. House ethics committee investigated complaints against the five-term Spartanburg Democrat sent by the state Attorney General's office after Mitchell pleaded guilty to filing his taxes late.

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

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

Seanna Adcox

The House Ethics Committee has fined Rep. Harold Mitchell \$16,100 and ordered him to reimburse his campaign account nearly \$7,400 for improper expenses.

### Speaker Harrell News:

**Associated Press:** SC high court blocks ruling during Harrell appeal

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vD5vdVe2](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=vD5vdVe2)

Meg Kinnard

The Supreme Court's order at least temporarily overturns a ruling by Circuit Judge Casey Manning, who

said last week that Attorney General Alan Wilson had improperly empaneled a State Grand Jury to investigate corruption allegations against House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

**Post and Courier:** South Carolina's high court suspends judge's ruling during Harrell appeal  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140522/PC1610/140529782/1031/south-carolinas-high-court-blocks-judges-ruling-during-harrell-appeal>

Jeremy Borden

The criminal investigation into ethics-related allegations will continue against House Speaker Bobby Harrell while a ruling from a lower court is appealed, the state Supreme Court said Thursday. The one-page ruling, signed by the court's five justices, echoes Attorney General Alan Wilson's stance in an earlier interview with The Post and Courier.

**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?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1#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.

### **S.C. Federal Delegation News:**

**Politico:** Benghazi panel taking shape

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/benghazi-panel-taking-shape-107011.html>

Lauren French

Democrats and Republicans met separately to discuss the select committee's organization. Separately, Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.), the panel's top Democrat, huddled in the afternoon for their first official meeting as the panel's leaders.

### **South Carolina News:**

**Associated Press:** SC officials applaud approval of water bill

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PFqk6CYX](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PFqk6CYX)

South Carolina port officials say congressional passage of a new water resources bill smooths the way for deepening Charleston Harbor. The bill passed the Senate on Thursday after clearing the House earlier this week.

**Aiken Standard:** House approves MOX construction funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140522/AIK0101/140529781/1004/house-approves-mox-construction-funding>

Derrek Asberry

The United States House showed support for the Savannah River Site's MOX program today by greenlighting its version of the National Defense Authorization Bill. The bill includes language that approves construction of the MOX facility for fiscal year 2015.

**Associated Press:** Savannah River can apparently handle new port

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=t6mChY4H](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=t6mChY4H)

Bruce Smith

It appears the Savannah River can handle a second major container port. A joint board from South Carolina and Georgia developing a \$3 billion container ship terminal learned Thursday that a capacity study indicates the river can handle ships from both the existing Georgia ports and the planned Jasper Ocean Terminal. The study should be finalized this summer.

**Associated Press:** Forecasters predict slow Atlantic hurricane season

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SU14InPh](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SU14InPh)

Meghan Barr

A slower-than-usual hurricane season is expected this year because of an expected El Niño, federal forecasters said Thursday, but they warned that it takes only one storm to wreak havoc and urged

Americans to be prepared.

**Post and Courier:** 75,000 South Carolina seniors missing out on food stamp benefits, report says  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140522/PC1603/140529758/1031/75000-south-carolina-seniors-missing-out-on-food-stamp-benefits-report-says>

Schuyler Kropf

As many as 75,000 South Carolina seniors who could be participating in the government's food stamp program are missing out on \$71 million in benefits each year, a new report estimates. Senior hunger, often called America's "hidden hunger," is expected to become more of an issue in the state as South Carolina's population becomes more gray.

#### **Local News:**

**Post and Courier:** U.S. Census: Mount Pleasant ninth fastest-growing city in nation in 2013  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140522/PC16/140529815/1006/mt-pleasant-in-top-10-fastest-growing-cities>

David Slade

Highlighting just how quickly the Charleston area's population is increasing, the Census Bureau said Mount Pleasant was the nation's ninth-fastest-growing large city in 2013. Longtime residents of the town might need a minute here to digest the idea that Mount Pleasant is a "large city."

#### **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Senate GOP campaign arm inflates April fundraising  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o4Vz1Uyb](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=o4Vz1Uyb)

Philip Elliott

Senate Republicans' campaign arm overstated its cash savings by \$2.6 million in a summary to reporters, a spokesman for the committee acknowledged Thursday. National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesman Brad Dayspring last week said the committee raised \$6 million in April and had \$21.9 million saved.

Brian Symmes

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