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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, May 7, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: S.C. ethics reform bill moves to House floor amid criticism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC1603/140509547/1005/>

Jeremy Borden

A S.C. House committee pushed forward an ethics reform proposal Tuesday that creates a new panel to investigate all three branches of government and gives that new board more power to do so.

Note: "Instead of true reform, today's amendment does nothing to fix the actual problem - legislators investigating legislators," said Doug Mayer, the governor's spokesman. "The governor hopes the full House will listen to the citizens of our state and do what is right: create a truly independent agency that exists to serve the public interest, not the interests of legislators."

Note: Mayer also disagreed with Delleney's characterization of the meeting, calling it "nonsense." "The governor went to tell the Caucus where she stood on the issue and why she believes the actions they took today are wrong," he said.

The State: SC House panel OKs ethics plan over Haley's objection

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/06/3431442/sc-house-panel-oks-ethics-plan.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and GOP S.C. House members disagreed Tuesday on whose version of ethics reform would actually kill it. A plan the House Judiciary Committee OK'd Tuesday would create a panel made up of lawmakers, judges and appointees of the governor to conduct secret investigations into allegations against any public official, employee or judge.

Note: Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said the House proposal "does nothing to fix the actual problem – legislators investigating legislators. The governor hopes the full House will listen to the citizens of our state and do what is right: create a truly independent agency that exists to serve the public interest, not the interests of legislators."

WLTX: Senators Working on \$6.9 Billion State Budget

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2014/05/06/senators-working-on-69-billion-state-budget/8781063/>

Jennifer Bellamy

South Carolina senators are working a \$6.8 billion budget for the state this week. Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson calls it an education budget, will millions going to K-12 and higher education.

Note: It sets aside \$30 million for reading coaches in elementary schools, an additional \$4.5 million for summer reading programs and \$30 million for school technology. Those were part of Gov. Nikki Haley's suggestions.

Rock Hill Herald: Former SC first lady remembered for championing causes

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/06/5936568/former-sc-first-lady-remembered.html#storylink=cpy>

Lois Rhame West, a Camden native, Winthrop University alumna and a longtime advocate for wellness, physical fitness and health care policy, died Tuesday at age 92.

Note: "An educator and advocate for healthy living, Lois West served South Carolina well beyond her capacity as first lady," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a statement. "Her great love for and commitment to education and to South Carolina as a whole will be missed, and Michael and I ask the people of our state to join us in keeping the West family in our thoughts and prayers."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: SC GOP tries to stop speech by Haley critic Tom Ervin

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/06/3431206/sc-gop-tries-to-stop-haley-critics.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

S.C. GOP party leaders said they did not want Tom Ervin, who is running for governor as a petition candidate, to speak Tuesday to a group of Richland and Lexington counties Republicans. State GOP chairman Matt Moore said his staff called organizers of the First Tuesday Republican Club of Richland and Lexington Counties about his concerns over Ervin.

Island Packet: Det Bowers to visit Beaufort, Jasper counties

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/06/3097162/det-bowers-to-visit-beaufort-jasper.html?sp=/99/257/#storylink=cpy>

U.S. Senate candidate Det Bowers will make two campaign stops in the Lowcountry this week. Bowers is one of six Republicans challenging incumbent U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in the June 10 primary. Bowers will visit with the Hilton Head Island Republican Club from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at 23 Ocean Lane on Hilton Head.

The State: Education group distances from Sheila Gallagher after suggestion to legalize marijuana

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/06/3431062/education-association-distances.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

The South Carolina Education Association distanced itself from superintendent of education candidate Sheila Gallagher on Tuesday for her recent suggestion that legalizing marijuana could pay for education system.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: De-politicize ethics oversight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140507/PC1002/140509551/1021/de-politicize-ethics-oversight>

Editorial

If the Legislature agrees on an ethics reform bill this year, it is certain not to be perfect. The subject is complex, and everyone will likely have had to compromise on one point or another. But Gov. Nikki Haley was right to reject altogether a compromise that would have established an "independent ethics panel" that is not independent at all.

The State (Guest Column): Peeler: Reading bill a major step for SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/07/3430947/peeler-reading-bill-a-major-step.html#storylink=cpy>

Senator Harvey Peeler

A great measure of credit goes to Gov. Nikki Haley for her support and promotion of this initiative. The governor's executive budget funded \$29.5 million for reading coaches, which was a tremendous catalyst to get things clicking this year. By providing a dedicated funding source, she brought focus to the Read to Succeed proposal, and led the House and the Senate Finance Committee to adopt it in the budget.

Times and Democrat: Safety milestone despite dangers from ice storm

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/safety-milestone-despite-dangers-from-ice-storm/article_1e4f536a-d5a1-11e3-a8f8-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Electric cooperatives and safety; OUR OPINION: Congratulations to rural power providers for safety achievement in most dangerous of years. The warm weather and the greenery all around make people quickly forget about those cold nights in January and February without power. But the story of the snow and ice storms of 2014 is still being written.

Greenville News: City Council should listen about elections

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/05/06/editorial-city-council-listen-elections/8777275/>

Editorial

The Greenville City Council is on the verge of making a bad decision that will spread distrust and suspicion in this city's African-American communities. With very little public support and much opposition to the idea, the Council voted 4-3 last week to end partisan elections.

Legislative Session News:

Associated Press: SC Senate may swap 4K expansion for local aid

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pC2udbCf

Seanna Adcox

The Senate Judiciary chairman said Tuesday restoring aid to local governments should be a higher priority than expanding kindergarten for 4 year olds. Sen. Larry Martin recommends taking \$16 million in local aid off a budget wish list and putting money toward expanding full-day 4K on it.

Associated Press: Read to Succeed bill advances at teachers' expense

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

Andrew Coffman Smith

Legislation to boost reading proficiency of South Carolina's K-12 students has advanced in the House with a number of changes. An education subcommittee on Tuesday recommended the 'Read to Succeed' bill by a 6-2 vote. The House and Senate have already passed different versions of the measure.

Post and Courier: No-excuse early voting moves forward

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC1603/140509542/1031/no-excuse-early-voting-moves-forward>

Jeremy Borden

A key House panel passed a bill Tuesday that would establish no-excuse early voting in South Carolina. The bill, S.4, has already been passed by the Senate. As it stands, voters must have a broad range of reasons to vote "absentee" before an election, including being physically disabled, having work obligations or a student attending school elsewhere.

Post and Courier: House Speaker Bobby Harrell clarifies Lowcountry comments from WTMA radio interview

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC1603/140509543/1031/house-speaker-bobby-harrell-clarifies-lowcountry-comments-from-wtma-radio-interview>

Jeremy Borden

House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, sought to clarify comments he made on a Charleston radio program Monday when he said an ethics-related investigation into him may be the result of an effort to diminish the Charleston area's influence in the Legislature.

The State: SC senators to decide between money for local government, 4K

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/06/3431208/sc-senators-to-decide-between.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

A state Senate leader proposed Tuesday restoring money that Senate budget writers cut from local governments to extend the state's 4-year-old kindergarten program to more at-risk students.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Associated Press: GOP's point man on Benghazi is seasoned prosecutor

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/gops-point-man-benghazi-seasoned-prosecutor>

Donna Cassata

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the Republicans' newest point man on the Benghazi attack, is a seasoned prosecutor determined to apply his well-honed courtroom skills to an election-year examination of the Obama administration's actions.

Politico: Police investigate threats against Trey Gowdy

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/trey-gowdy-threats-police-investigation-106407.html?hp=r5>

Lauren French

The U.S. Capitol Police are investigating threatening emails against Rep. Trey Gowdy, the South Carolina Republican recently tapped to lead a special panel probing the Benghazi terrorist attacks. The investigation comes after POLITICO reporters and journalists at other outlets received two emails on Tuesday warning that Gowdy would be harmed because of his role in investigating the 2012 attacks.

Post and Courier: One year later: Mark Sanford talks about his first year back in Congress

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC1610/140509567/1177/one-year-later-mark-sanford-talks-about-his-first-year-back-in-congress>

A year ago today, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford completed his political redemption campaign by winning a special election for his former seat in Congress. It was a convincing 9-point victory over Democrat Elizabeth Colbert

Busch, recharging a political future that appeared to be over in the wake of his "Appalachian Trail hike" to Argentina story as governor.

South Carolina News:

Rock Hill Herald: 1,500 jobs coming to Chester County

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/06/5936539/1500-jobs-coming-to-chester-county.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Chester County is negotiating a "game-changing" economic deal with a company that could invest up to \$560 million and create 1,500 jobs, according to county officials. If finalized, the investment and job creation would be the largest in the county in at least 30 years and bigger than most recent projects in York or Lancaster counties.

Florence Morning News: South Carolina Commerce Department sees positive signs

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_7111b1d2-d570-11e3-914e-001a4bcf6878.html

John D. Russell

The South Carolina Department of Commerce (SCDC) painted an optimistic picture with the release of its March Economic Outlook report last week. A high point of the report was a rise in the South Carolina Leading Index (SCLI) value to above 100. A value greater than 100 predicts growth over the next three to six months.

The State: Thousands of SC insurance buyers waited until last minute to pay

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/06/3430584/thousands-of-sc-insurance-buyers.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

Lots of South Carolinians waited until the last minute to pay for their new policies on the Health Insurance Marketplace. The number of South Carolinians who have made the first premium payment for those policies jumped from 67,846 to 85,453 from April 15 through April 30. For most of the people who signed up for policies in late April or March, the deadline to make that first payment was May 1.

Greenville News: State feeling the effects of climate change

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/2014/05/06/state-feeling-effects-climate-change/8793705/>

Eric Connor

The repercussions of climate change from South Carolina's mountains to the coast are no longer relegated to the faraway concept of melting polar ice, according to an expansive climate report released by President Barack Obama's administration on Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Federal report: Climate change disrupting Americans' lives

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC1601/140509608/1263/federal-report-warming-disrupting-americans-lives>

David Slade

More extreme weather, droughts, flooding and rising sea levels, decreased farm yields and heat-related health problems - that's what a congressionally mandated assessment of climate change produced by U.S. scientists says people in the South can expect in the coming decades.

Rock Hill Herald: SC Supreme Court hears arguments in York County landfill suit

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/06/5938515/sc-supreme-court-hears-arguments.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

The county's seven-year legal battle with a private waste company over a proposed Rock Hill landfill made its way to state Supreme Court on Tuesday morning, where justices repeatedly raised questions over "authority" and "timing."

Post and Courier: Air Force Secretary stresses mission-readiness in speech to Chamber

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC16/140509541/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James called on Charleston-area business leaders to stress mission-readiness to Congress as the Pentagon faces an uncertain future of cuts and reductions. Her comments

come as sequestration and a base closure and re-alignment review could still become reality, putting Charleston's military installations under national scrutiny.

Greenville News: CertusBank reorganizes management

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2014/05/07/certusbank-reorganizes-management/8795865/>

David Dykes

Greenville-based CertusBank, battling financial losses and allegations of mismanagement, said Tuesday it reorganized top management to speed decision-making, encourage teamwork and become more nimble under interim President and CEO John Poelker.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Pay increase proposed for Charleston County workers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140506/PC16/140509539/1006/cost-of-living-pay-increase-proposed-for-charleston-county-employees>

Prentiss Findlay

Charleston County workers are eligible for their first cost-of-living pay increase in four years, Chief Financial Officer Keith Bustraan said Tuesday. The 1.8 percent COLA pay raise is included in a new budget currently being printed for distribution to the Council, he said.

Florence Morning News: Timmonsville waits on budget, police

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_7577c7b2-d588-11e3-b200-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The town that has been without a dedicated police force for almost two years will soon see a new police chief starting, despite the town's failure to pass a budget that funds the whole department or appropriately allocate previously approved funds for the position, per a council member.

Anderson Independent: Anderson County budget with road money, raises gets first approval

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/06/anderson-county-budget-with-road-money-raises/?partner=RSS>

Nikie Mayo

The Anderson County Council gave its first approval Tuesday to a proposed 2014-15 budget that includes \$1.5 million for paving roads, no tax or fee increases, and pay raises for government employees. The first reading of the proposed county budget was approved 5-2, with council members Cindy Wilson and Eddie Moore opposing.

National News:

Associated Press: NC Lawmaker Wins GOP Senate Nomination

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_PRIMARY_RDP?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-05-06-21-27-08

David Espo

North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis captured the nomination to oppose imperiled Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan Tuesday night, overcoming anti-establishment rivals by a comfortable margin in the first of a springtime spate of primaries testing the strength of a tea party movement that first rocked the Republican party four years ago.

Washington Times: RNC set to join landmark suit taking on campaign limits

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/may/6/rnc-set-to-join-landmark-suit-taking-on-campaign-l/>

Ralph Z. Hallow

Members of the Republican National Committee gathering in Memphis, Tennessee, for their spring meeting are set to join a lawsuit seeking to strike down campaign finance limits and free the GOP to spend unlimited money on get-out-the-vote efforts.

Brian Symmes

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