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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Haley focuses attention on education reform

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131203/ARTICLES/131209889/1051/news01?Title=Haley-focuses-attention-on-education-reform>

Lynne P. Shackelford

Gov. Nikki Haley laid the groundwork Tuesday for a new education reform package she plans to unveil in January. Haley was the keynote speaker at the Gaffney Rotary Club lunch meeting and touted her administration's commitment to recruiting and retaining jobs, citing more than 40,000 new jobs and \$10 billion in investment since she was elected. Haley also said she focuses on job creation in rural areas.

Note: "Those jobs aren't in Greenville, Columbia or Charleston," she said. "They're really coming to rural areas, and we're starting to feel the impact."

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Gov. Perry believes South Carolina is creating competition for Texas in economic growth

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20131203/ARTICLES/131209885/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Gov-Perry-believes-South-Carolina-is-creating-competition-for-Texas-in-economic-growth>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Though he is a friend and frequent visitor to the state, Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday that South Carolina is creating competition for Texas when it comes to recruiting companies and creating jobs. Perry presides over a state known as one of the nation's economic powerhouses. Still, Perry said he finds himself looking over his shoulder.

Note: "Competition is really what drives us as a society. ... I'm not the least bit afraid of competition," Perry told the Rotary Club of Spartanburg during a lunch Tuesday. "Every day I get up, I know that (Gov.) Nikki Haley is working to put the policies in place to make South Carolina more competitive than Texas. Bobby Jindal is doing the same thing over in Louisiana and Rick Scott in Florida."

Post and Courier: Federal report shows Medicaid enrollment in S.C. jumped 20 percent in October

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131203/PC16/131209797/1006/medicaid-numbers-growing-in-state-rise-seen-despite-no-change-in-eligibility>

Lauren Sausser

Under Gov. Nikki Haley, South Carolina decided the state will not expand Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act, but the low-income health insurance program is growing here anyway — even faster than in many states that are expanding Medicaid eligibility rules. A new federal report published Tuesday shows that the number of Medicaid applications submitted to the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services in October was 20.2 percent higher than recent monthly averages.

The State: SC Medicaid program growing despite rejection of Obamacare

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/03/3137200/sc-medicaid-program-growing-despite.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

S.C. lawmakers — led by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley — refused to expand the state's Medicaid program under the federal Affordable Care Act, saying the state could not afford it. But the enrollment and costs of the state's health insurance program for the poor are growing rapidly even without that expansion. Since 2010, when Haley was first elected and brought in Tony Keck to lead the state's Medicaid program, the number of Medicaid beneficiaries in South Carolina has increased to more than 1 million from 850,000. Growth in South Carolina's rolls has ballooned the state's Medicaid budget to \$6.4 billion this year from \$5.7 billion in 2010 — and Keck expects that cost to pass the \$7 billion mark in 2015.

Associated Press: Haley scheduled to meet with South Carolina mayors

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

Gov. Nikki Haley is scheduled to meet with mayors from across South Carolina. On Wednesday, Haley is in Blythewood to address the Winter Membership Meeting of the Association of South Carolina Mayors. From there, she travels to Hartsville to address a meeting of the Hartsville Rotary Club. The last event on Haley's public schedule is a news conference on ethics reform at Myrtle Beach City Hall.

2014 Campaign Cycle Election:

The State: Graham's GOP opponents stump in West Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/12/03/3137210/grahams-gop-opponents-stump-in.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

A defining moment for Nancy Mace, a Charleston PR executive and the first woman to graduate from The Citadel military college, was the day her father, a Citadel administrator and retired Army general, dropped her off at the school. He said: "Don't call home if you want to quit. Just put on your shoes and start walking," Mace told a group of about 30 people Tuesday at a West Columbia luncheon for the First Tuesday Republican Club of Richland and Lexington counties. Mace joined two of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's other GOP primary opponents — Easley businessman Richard Cash and Orangeburg attorney Bill Connor — at the luncheon.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Dredging project should proceed, but with caution

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/03/2827463/dredging-project-should-proceed.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

It's good to see the long-discussed dredging project finally getting underway in Sea Pines. Finally, a decade's worth of sediment will be pumped from the Harbour Town Yacht Basin as well as Gull Point and South Beach marinas and Braddock Cove and Baynard Cove creeks. But we hope the private group funding the work -- a group of boat-slips owners and Sea Pines residents along with Sea Pines Resort and Gull Point and South Beach marinas -- will be vigilant in ensuring the work is done properly and that the environment is protected. Some previous dredging work has not gone smoothly.

Post and Courier: Judging the judge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131204/PC1002/131209782/1021/judging-the-judge>

Editorial

Publicly berating the state's solicitors for bad behavior is hardly what you'd expect from a distinguished justice of the honorable S.C. Supreme Court. But at a conference in September, Associate Justice Donald W. Beatty gave the solicitors and their assistants a piece of his mind. And in doing so the judge asserted that he and his colleagues on the court have turned a blind eye to questionable, even unethical, actions by solicitors for years. We'd like to hear what Chief Justice Jean Toal has to say about that.

The State: Richland Election System Was Broken Long Before Fiascos Of 2012, 2013

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fMqfq5DQ

Cindi Scoppe

I'm writing this before the votes are counted - or even all cast - in the referendum on changing Columbia's form of government, and I'm assuming the Richland County Voter Registration and Election Commission didn't make any major errors this time, as it did last month, and last year. I'm not making this assumption because I have faith in the commission - far from it. Rather, I'm making this assumption because when it comes to identifying the problem and the necessary solution, that really doesn't matter. What the Richland County Election Commission's repeated failures do is help us all understand that the Richland County election system is broken.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Rick Perry to speak about energy at Greenville meeting

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312040017>

Rudolph Bell

Texas Gov. Rick Perry returns to Greenville today as he mulls a second run for the White House. The Republican from the Lone Star State is scheduled to talk about energy at the annual meeting of the Electric Co-Ops of South Carolina at the downtown Hyatt beginning at 7:30 a.m. He also will talk about being an

Eagle Scout at a Boy Scouts fundraiser at The Poinsett Club that starts at 11:30 a.m. Perry was in Spartanburg on Tuesday, speaking to the downtown Rotary Club and touring Spartanburg Regional Medical Center and Smith Drug Company, according to a Lexington consultant helping with his visit.

Associated Press: Report Gives SC An 'F' For Disclosure Of Judge's Finances

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

Jamie Self

South Carolina received an "F" – along with 42 other states – for its rules governing the personal financial information that state Supreme Court justices are required to disclose publicly in a new report. The report, released Wednesday by the Center for Public Integrity, contained some good news for the Palmetto State, saying it is one of only two states that received a perfect score for requiring judges to report the sources, amounts and descriptions of gifts and travel reimbursements that they receive. But, overall, the report found the state's judicial disclosure rules lacking. The report focused on laws governing states' highest courts.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina, Virginia call for convention of states

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131204/AIK0101/131209788/1007/AIK0101/south-carolina-virginia-call-for-convention-of-states>

Derrek Asberry

It's no secret that Americans aren't happy with Washington, D.C., said S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, who is now the primary of new legislation designed to rein in the federal government. The bill – introduced on Tuesday – calls for an Article V Convention of States – or COS. "Fortunately, our founders knew the federal government might one day become too large and too powerful and they specifically inserted a mechanism that gives states a lawful and orderly mechanism to restrain a runaway federal government; it's Article V of the Constitution," Taylor said. The information came in a Tuesday press release that revealed South Carolina and Virginia are the first two states to call for a convention. Florida is expected to voice its support on Friday.

Associated Press: SC House members pre-file 53 bills for 2014

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UGD3IdeM

Domestic violence and slow drivers are among the topics of bills pre-filed in the House for the legislative session that resumes in January. House members filed more than 50 bills by noon Tuesday. That marked the Legislature's first pre-filing deadline for 2014. The next deadline for House members and senators is Dec. 10. The final pre-filing deadline is Dec. 17 for senators only. A proposal by Democratic Rep. Bakari Sellers seeks to increase domestic violence penalties in a state that consistently rates among the worst in violence against women.

Greenville News: Federal judge refuses to block school prayers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312040014>

David Dykes

A federal judge Tuesday denied a humanist association's motion for a preliminary injunction that would have blocked Greenville County school events from being held in churches and other places of worship and student-initiated prayer during school events. Senior U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr., at a court hearing, said the American Humanist Association's allegations against the Greenville County school district lacked proof and were "making a mountain out of a mole hill." The judge also told an attorney for the association that "with all due respect and apologies" he had never heard of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, founded in 1941.

Associated Press: Agans to be new commander of US Army unit at Shaw

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=v95PANkq

An Army unit connected with the South Carolina-based U.S. Army Central is getting a new commander. The 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment on Wednesday bids farewell to Col. Benjamin M. Matthews and welcomes Col. Robert Agans as its new commander. The change of command ceremony is being hosted by Lt. Gen. James L. Terry at 10 a.m. at Patton Hall's Lucky Park. The detachment is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Central, which is based at Shaw Air Force Base near Sumter. It acts as a liaison between the Air Force and U.S. Army Central, which supports U.S. Army units in 20 countries spanning from Egypt to Afghanistan.

Strong Mayor Referendum News:

The State: Columbia Voters Reject Strong Mayor

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bg3UdchB

Clif LeBlanc and John Monk

Columbians decided Tuesday to keep City Hall as it has operated for 64 years, resoundingly rejecting a strong-mayor form of government. About 11,700 voters went to the polls in the city's first single-issue referendum in most residents' memory and voted "No" by a 57 percent to 43 percent margin, according to unofficial results. Voter turnout was roughly 16 percent. That's a nearly 14 percentage point victory to maintain the council-manager system that has come under severe criticism in the hotly contested campaign.

The State: Map: Referendum Defeated By Strong Turnout In 9 Precincts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rT4U3IRa

Chris Winston

All elections are decided by turnout. That was never more clear than in Tuesday's special election on the strong mayor referendum in Columbia. The opponents of the referendum carried the day, 57 percent to 43 percent. Nearly 16 percent of Columbia's registered voters took part. Richland County's 70 precincts were evenly split, with 34 going with the Mayor Steve Benjamin-backed effort to change city government, 32 going against and four evenly split. But the turnout within those precincts was drastically different.

The State: Election 'uneventful,' Richland Elections Director Says; City Watchers Agree

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

Cassie Cope

The members of Columbia's Municipal Election Commission watched the vote results at the Richland County elections headquarters Tuesday night and received copies of a breakdown of the votes by precincts. Chairman Byron Gipson said Tuesday evening that it looked like the process went smoothly. "The new protections that have been put in place have given us the assurances we want and that the citizens of Columbia demand," said Gipson, who was joined by fellow commissioners Jay Bender and Susan Kuo.

Local News:**Times and Democrat:** Orangeburg's GKN plant lands Boeing work

http://thetandd.com/news/orangeburg-s-gkn-plant-lands-boeing-work/article_15391de4-5c32-11e3-8b67-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

Orangeburg's GKN Aerospace plant has been selected to perform the final assembly for Boeing's advanced-technology winglet for its 737 MAX single-aisle aircraft. GKN committed itself to creating 278 new jobs and investing \$38 million over a five-year period when it announced it was locating in the Orangeburg County/City Industrial Park two years ago. The work announced Tuesday is part of that commitment.

Associated Press: Riley, Campbell being honored by leadership group

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jc2DzQxH

Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. is being honored for the leadership he has shown South Carolina. Riley is one of three South Carolinians to be honored on Wednesday at the Fourth Annual Dick & Tunky Riley Legacy of Leaders event for their contributions to the state. State Sen. Paul Campbell and North Charleston attorney Tiffany Spann-Wilder are also being honored at the event in Charleston. The awards are sponsored by Leadership South Carolina, the state's oldest and largest leadership development organization.

Associated Press: 2 in custody after SC toddler shot, killed

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=dG2LI8Rh

A 40-year-old man is charged with murder after a toddler was killed in a yard in Hartsville and the girl's mother is accused of lying to police. Authorities said Madison Dolford was shot after an argument between two adults Monday afternoon. Police haven't determined if she was targeted by the shooter or was hit by a stray bullet. Investigators charged Timothy Sanders with murder on Tuesday and charged the child's mother, 23-year-old April Dixon, with misprision of a felony, accusing her of lying to police about the shooting. It wasn't known if either suspect had an attorney.

Florence Morning News: Bond denied for man and woman charged in Hartsville toddler's death

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_34f5e308-5c53-11e3-9057-0019bb30f31a.html

Traci Bridges

A 40-year-old man has been charged with murder in connection with the shooting death of a toddler Monday night in Hartsville, while the child's mother has been charged with accessory to murder after the fact. Timothy O'Neil Sanders, 40, and April Dixon, 23, of 318 Bell Ave., Hartsville, were denied bond after appearing before a judge Tuesday afternoon. Sanders and Dixon were taken into custody on drug charges Monday night shortly after 22-month-old Madison Dolford was fatally shot in the front yard of a Bell Street residence.

Post and Courier: Charleston passes first reading of 2014's \$172 million city budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131203/PC16/131209793/1006/>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston City Council passed first reading of its 2014 budget Tuesday, adopting a spending plan with no property tax increase and a 2.5 percent cost of living adjustment for city employees. It also includes funding to add nearly 40 new employees for the fire and police departments, as public safety remains a significant part of the city's annual spending plan. The \$172.8 million budget is about 5.7 percent greater than the 2013 allocation, with part of the growth attributed to a continued increase in building permits and business licenses.

Island Packet: School board committee recommends several programs for school choice

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/12/03/2828464/school-board-committee-recommends.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

If the Beaufort County School District allows parents and students to choose a school based on its programs, at least two questions must be answered first: What will those programs be? And how they will be chosen? To answer those questions, the board's Curriculum and Instruction Committee approved a list of ten options that it will recommend to the full board for approval at Tuesday's meeting.

Post and Courier: City, school district, residents disagree on Hanahan school site

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131203/PC16/131209779/1177/city-school-district-residents-disagree-on-hanahan-school-site>

Brenda Rindge

Residents of Hanahan agree that the city needs a new elementary school. What they disagree on, sometimes emotionally, is where that school should be. Nobody seems to want it in their backyard. Hanahan City Council held a special meeting Tuesday to hear residents' opinions on proposed locations for a new elementary school planned for the Tanner Plantation-Foster Creek area. In November 2012, Berkeley County voters approved a \$198 million bond referendum to renovate and build schools.

Florence Morning News: Darlington City Council approves funds for battered women's outreach

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_60cf6e44-5c86-11e3-98ba-0019bb30f31a.html

Melissa Rollins

The Darlington City Council allocated \$750 for a new battered women's shelter during its brief meeting Tuesday night. Council members heard from Darlington resident Tonya Flowers about the issue of domestic violence and the need for a local shelter for abuse victims. Flowers herself has had firsthand experience with domestic violence both as a child watching her mother being beaten by her stepfather and also later as an adult in an abusive relationship. Now, Flowers has started the House of Refuge Outreach Ministries to help those affected by abuse.

Greenville News: Proterra gets \$10M order

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013312040019>

Rudolph Bell

A transit agency in Louisville, Ky., has ordered more than \$10 million worth of merchandise from Greenville-based Proterra in the latest sale for the manufacturer of battery-powered transit buses. The Transit Authority of River City (TARC) will pay \$10.5 million for 10 Proterra buses and two charging stations, the authority's marketing director, Kay Stewart, said Tuesday. Barry Barker, the authority's executive director, said he rode on a Proterra bus operated by Foothill Transit of Los Angeles County, an early Proterra customer, during a trade association meeting in California about a year and a half ago.

National News:

Associated Press: GOP opposes Democratic drive to renew jobless aid

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1AxEpUXU

Andrew Taylor

Republicans controlling the House oppose a drive by Democrats to renew jobless benefits averaging less than \$300 a week nationwide for the long-term unemployed, a senior GOP lawmaker said Tuesday. "I don't see much appetite on our side for continuing this extension of benefits," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "I just don't." Benefits for 1.3 million long-term unemployed people expire just three days after Christmas. Lawmakers say another 1.9 million people would miss out on the benefits in the first six months of next year.

Associated Press: Common Core yields odd political allegiances

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ERohD6Lx

Philip Elliott

To say that new academic standards have yielded strange bedfellows would be an understatement. Republican-on-Republican infighting? Teacher unions linking arms with tea partyers? President Barack Obama working in tandem with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and energy giant Exxon? When it comes to Common Core, forget the old allegiances. Traditionally Democratic-leaning groups don't like the standardized tests and are finding allies among small-government conservatives.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437