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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Teamwork helped recruit carbon fiber maker Toray Industries to Spartanburg County

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140222/ARTICLES/140229931?Title=Teamwork-helped-recruit-carbon-fiber-maker-Toray-Industries-to-Spartanburg-County->

Trevor Anderson

A brief phone call last year between a state commerce official and a local economic development executive opened the door for Spartanburg County to land South Carolina's largest-ever initial investment in a new production facility.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley announced the company's decision Tuesday while speaking to a group of Rotarians at the Piedmont Club. Local leaders said they were informed of Haley's plan to make the announcement just a few hours before it was made.

Post and Courier: 2016 South Carolina GOP leaders: Leaning toward a governor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140222/PC16/140229754/1006/2016-sc-gop-leaders-leaning-toward-a-governor>

Schuyler Kropf

York County GOP Chairman Wes Climer spoke for a lot of leaders representing South Carolina's biggest Republican counties in saying he favored a state executive in the White House. Horry County Republican Chairman Robert Raybon took a similar view, listing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and South Carolina's Nikki Haley as his top three picks for president in 2016.

Greenville News: Counties say no thanks to roads plan

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302230022>

Tim Smith

County officials across the Upstate say they aren't interested in the Legislature's latest carrot to lure them into taking over control and maintenance of some state roads. County officials told The Greenville News they don't have enough funds now to maintain their own roads without taking over state roads that may need additional work.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley pushed a proposal two years ago that would have allocated \$75 million to local governments willing to take over state roads. But the plan went nowhere.

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley to speak to Aiken Republican Club

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140223/AIK0101/140229772/1004/gov-haley-to-speak-to-aiken-republican-club>

Amy Banton

Gov. Nikki Haley will be the Aiken Republican Club's guest speaker in March. The governor is expected to discuss a variety of topics including job creation, recent state legislation, the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act and federal regulations on South Carolinians and recovery efforts after the recent ice storm. Haley, a Bamberg native, was first elected governor in 2010, and the seat is up for election this year. State Sen. Vincent Sheheen is the Democratic candidate bidding for the seat.

Island Packet: School district seeks to expand pre-K countywide

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/02/22/2965012/school-district-seeks-to-expand.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

Nearly all Beaufort County 4-year-olds would get a full day of school under a plan to expand pre-kindergarten. But to nearly double the number of students served, the Beaufort County School District would need to more than double the cost of its current program -- from about \$3.5 million a year to more than \$7.7

million.

Note: Nevertheless, President Barack Obama, candidates from both political parties for the S.C. superintendent of education race, Gov. Nikki Haley and her gubernatorial opponent Vincent Sheheen have all touted the importance of early childhood education

S.C. Political News:

The State: Conservation group hopes to produce green for Sheheen

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/22/3285711/the-buzz-conservation-group-hopes.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

A conservation group hopes to make a lot of green for Vincent Sheheen, the Democratic candidate for governor. The Conservation Voters of South Carolina officially endorsed Sheheen last week, the earliest it ever has endorsed a candidate, according to its executive director. Its endorsement came with more than just a news release. It came with a promise to raise money.

Michigan Republican responds to Haley: Gov. Nikki Haley's comments that she would not welcome Ford, GM and Chrysler and their union workers in South Carolina have caused a stir in the country's automotive capital.

S.C. GOP blasts Sheheen for missed vote: State senators killed a bill last week that would have let South Carolinians carry a gun without a concealed weapons permit – but state Sen. Sheheen, the Democratic candidate for governor, missed the vote.

The State: SC GOP has grown from a few to a fracturing many

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/22/3285422/sc-gop-has-grown-from-a-few-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham did not say his opponents' names at a campaign stop Wednesday in Columbia. But he did try to distinguish himself from the five GOP challengers who pose the greatest threat ever to his political career. "I am really proud to be a Ronald Reagan, Carroll Campbell, Strom Thurmond Republican. Someone who understands that conservatism is the way to govern. But you have to govern," Graham said to applause.

Greenville News: Scott starts bid for office with \$3M

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302230023>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

After just one year on the job, Sen. Tim Scott has amassed more than \$3 million to finance his first statewide campaign for office. Scott must run in a special election this year to keep the job Gov. Nikki Haley appointed him to in December 2012. His latest campaign finance report shows the Charleston Republican has found support well outside his former Lowcountry congressional district.

Post and Courier: S.C. Democrats' top 3? Hillary, Hillary and, yes, Hillary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140222/PC16/140229759>

Robert Behre

Ask key South Carolina Democrats who their top three favorites are in their party's 2016 presidential race, and many echo Horry County Democratic Chairwoman Doris Hickman. "Hillary, Hillary, Hillary." Unlike the state's Republicans, who are mulling over a multitude of presidential possibilities, state Democratic leaders say their contest won't really begin until Hillary Clinton - who has been a first lady, a U.S. senator and a Secretary of State - decides yea or nay on her candidacy.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: We could call it the oversight oversight, if only it weren't a studied decision

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/23/3283266/scoppe-we-could-call-it-the-oversight.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Scoppe

Having an independent commission investigate legislators' ethical lapses and let the House and Senate Ethics committees retain their roles as judge and jury wasn't the goal when we started talking about putting someone besides legislators in charge of policing legislators' ethical lapses.

The State: SC Senate should try again on ethics; independent oversight is key to reform

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/22/3283246/editorial-sc-senate-should-try.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

The purpose of an ethics law is to deter public officials from serving their own personal interests or the interests of their patrons instead of ours. We can't stop it, but we can reduce its occurrence by requiring full reporting of potential conflicts of interest, outlawing some behaviors that involve conflicts and creating a muscular, independent enforcement mechanism with serious penalties.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Charleston University a positive educational answer
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140223/PC1002/140229770/1021/correct-higher-education-answer-charleston-university>

Mayor Joe Riley

The question surrounding creating Charleston University, which will include the College of Charleston and the Medical University, is this: Will it be increasingly essential for the Charleston region to have a graduate degree granting university, with attendant research capacities, for this region to be successful economically and meet the needs and wishes of the growing number of citizens in this part of South Carolina?

Aiken Standard: Don't punish colleges for book selections
<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140223/AIK0201/140229864/1018/AIK02/editorial-don-t-punish-colleges-for-book-selections>

Editorial

Funding the state's universities shouldn't be based on a personal agenda. But that sensibility was apparently lost on S.C. Rep. Garry Smith, R-Greenville, is pushing for funding cuts to two colleges based on their book selections for the freshmen reading experience.

Greenville News: Drivers need to put phones down
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302230020>

Editorial

Drivers in the city of Greenville need to make a dramatic change in their behavior now that the city has passed a ban on the handheld devices behind the wheel of a vehicle. There has been some confusion about what exactly that means, and the city is using the time between now and when the law takes effect on April 1 to educate drivers about exactly when they can use a handheld device and what devices are covered by the law.

Index Journal: De la Howe already slammed into iceberg
<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/De-la-Howe-already-slammed-into-iceberg/8/154/23879>

Editorial

The parallel between John de la Howe School and the tale of the Titanic can be drawn yet again. Following last week's resignations of the board of trustees' chairwoman, Jan Duncan, and vice chairwoman, Rosalind Neal, only four members of what is supposed to be a nine-member board remained.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

CNN (Guest Column): Sen. Tim Scott: I have lived the power of the American Dream
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/23/opinion/scott-jobs-opportunity-american-dream/>

Senator Tim Scott

America's economy has the potential to transform lives like no other force on Earth, but too often in recent years we have seen Washington act as an anchor. And while CEOs and presidents may generate the business headlines, an over-involved federal government hurts employees and those looking for jobs across the entire spectrum.

Times and Democrat: Congressman Clyburn urges forward view personal contributions at Black History program
http://thetandd.com/news/congressman-clyburn-urges-forward-view-personal-contributions-at-black-history/article_64ce21c8-9c0c-11e3-98ff-0019bb2963f4.html

Mary H. Yarborough

Sounding almost conservative, U.S. Congressman James Clyburn said Black History Month has become a period of focusing on a victimized culture instead of as a measure of strength, perseverance, accomplishment and personal responsibility. Clyburn spoke Wednesday night during a Black History program at Springhill Baptist Church in Eutaw Springs.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: S.C. higher education funding focuses on jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140223/PC1603/140229781/1389/sc-higher-education-funding-focuses-on-jobs>

Jeremy Borden

Mary Thornley's pitch to South Carolina lawmakers last week in the lobby of the Statehouse was simple. The president of Trident Technical College told legislators that a proposed \$79 million aerospace center would be a substantial investment in the future of the region's economy. The 215,000-square-foot space would help train workers for the aeronautical cluster in the region and state, including North Charleston-based Boeing South Carolina and its suppliers and vendors.

Island Packet: Davis' bill would allow cannabidiol oil to be used for seizure treatment

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/02/22/2965013/davis-bill-would-allow-cannabidiol.html#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

Unable to find anything to control her daughter's intractable epilepsy, Jill Swing was weeks away from one last drastic attempt to stem the hundreds of seizures Mary Louise suffers each day. Swing said Thursday she and her daughter were going to move to Colorado by March, leaving her husband and Mary Louise's twin brother behind in Mount Pleasant.

The State: Anti-smoking groups press state for more money

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/22/3285715/anti-smoking-groups-press-state.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

Tobacco companies paid South Carolina \$68 million last year, but the state did not spend any of that money on smoking-prevention programs. Anti-smoking groups are upset, saying that omission violates the spirit of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, the 1998 court settlement of an anti-smoking lawsuit that 46 states, including South Carolina, filed against the tobacco industry.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Power finally back for all SC electric customers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=HspkEM10

The power is finally back on for everyone in South Carolina after the ice storm 10 days ago. The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina said Saturday morning that their members had finished all their repairs on the grid, getting electricity to the final 200 customers that had been without power since the winter storm on Feb. 12 and 13.

Times and Democrat: Ice damage's price tag may exceed 2004 storm for some

http://thetandd.com/business/ice-damage-s-price-tag-may-exceed-storm-for-some/article_f3098f72-9c4d-11e3-ba88-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

Preliminary damage assessments following the recent ice storm show that there was less private property damage than during 2004's ice storm, while the cost to government and utilities was greater this time. Officials, however, say it will take some time before the entire extent of damage is known.

Greenville News: Industry, nonprofits face limits in solar power generation

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302230021>

Nathaniel Cary

Sunlight gleams off a long rectangular array of solar panels anchored to the gravel roof of Furman University's physical activities building. On a lower part of the roof, a pair of square panels fills the roof line. Nearby, on the same rooftop, 60 4-by-10-foot panels provide heat to the university's indoor pool.

The State: Safety of Duke's SC coal ash ponds lost in shuffle

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/02/22/3285499/safety-of-dukes-sc-coal-ash-ponds.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Water is seeping through a coal ash dam in the foothills of South Carolina, raising concerns about the structure's stability and whether a failure would contaminate the Saluda River. But the seepage at Duke Energy's power plant in Anderson County has gone largely unnoticed as environmental groups and federal prosecutors focus much of their attention on the company's troubles in North Carolina.

Post and Courier: Private school choice program for students with disabilities awards more than \$600K in scholarships

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140222/PC1610/140229887/1389/private-school-choice-program-benefitting-children-with-disabilities>

Diette Courrege Casey

Stephanie Cecil couldn't find a North Carolina public school that fit the needs of her autistic, epileptic son who also has a mood disorder. She searched across the country for the right school, and she found Trident Academy, a K-8 grades private school in Mount Pleasant that caters to students who have disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome or high-functioning autism.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston County School District to expand Advanced Placement course offerings in needy schools

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140223/PC16/140229823/1389/charleston-schools-to-expand-ap-classes>

Diette Courrege Casey

College-level Advanced Placement classes are hard to come by in a handful of Charleston County high schools, and students in those schools often struggle to pass those exams. In six of the district's 13 high schools, less than five students earned passing scores on the exams. Most students who pass the tests attend one of three high schools; the success rates at Academic Magnet, School of the Arts and Wando are more than 75 percent.

Rock Hill Herald: Tega Cay Water Service says spills may continue while system is fixed

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/02/22/5704917/tega-cay-water-service-says-spills.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Officials with the Tega Cay Water Service say there's still a "risk" of sewage overflows until the company makes necessary system repairs. The company's comment comes on the heels of last week's notice of violation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Florence Morning News: First Florence County penny tax winds down while other ramps up

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_43e6e962-9c17-11e3-aba8-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Road projects from the first capital project sales tax continue to pick up speed from the gridlock that plagued them for the past several years. Florence County Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. told county council members Thursday bids had been returned for two of the five remaining road widening projects in the county.

Associated Press: Couple charged with indecent exposure, obstruction

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UYzfu0q5

Authorities have charged a Myrtle Beach couple with indecent exposure and obstruction of justice and say they are connected to the disappearance of a 20-year-old woman missing for more than two months. Police arrested 41-year-old Tammy Moorer and her 38-year-old husband Sidney on Friday as they searched the couple's home.

National News:

Associated Press: Wis. governor: Released documents are 'old news'

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xQV1Mcji

Steve Peoples

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is dismissing as "old news" the thousands of internal documents released this week that suggest former aides routinely mixed campaign and official Milwaukee County business. Walker was county executive when he was running for governor. Six former aides and associates have been convicted, but Walker has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

Associated Press: Governors: Legalized pot buzz just smoke

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8kwtURxA

Ken Thomas, Steve Peoples

All the buzz at the National Governors Association meeting over legalizing pot, some say, is just smoke. Nearly three months after Colorado began selling recreational marijuana, the nation's governors are taking a cautious approach to loosening their drug laws despite growing support for legalization.

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