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2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie makes foray into South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1603/140919533>

Schuyler Kropf

The New Jersey governor's first speculative trip of the 2016 presidential season in South Carolina was a 25-minute stop at Moe's Southwest Grill in downtown Charleston, where he fended off talk of a White House run in favor of endorsing Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election.

Note: "You don't treat all states the same, and so we did what was right for South Carolina," Haley said. "He did what was right for New Jersey, and at the end of the day, you can see two states that are doing extremely well."

Associated Press: NJ Gov. Chris Christie visits South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=gNwsHUT3

Bruce Smith

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stayed coy Tuesday about any presidential plans as he raised campaign cash for GOP candidates in North and South Carolina. In Charleston, as Christie and Gov. Nikki Haley stopped to meet voters in a crowded grill, Christie was asked if he would be back to South Carolina, home of his party's first-in-the-South presidential primary.

Note: There were protesters across the street in Charleston as well, protesting Haley's failure to expand Medicaid in South Carolina, something Christie has done in New Jersey. "You don't treat all states the same," Haley said. "We did what was right for South Carolina and he did what was right for New Jersey."

Star-Ledger: Chris Christie greeted warmly in South Carolina, but 2016 support no sure thing

http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/chris_christie_in_south_carolina.html

Matt Arco

Gov. Chris Christie got a warm welcome today from the 80 people who packed Moe's Southwest Grill in the city's downtown as he stumped for Gov. Nikki Haley, the GOP incumbent running for re-election. But while Christie was cheered, those who know South Carolina politics say it remains to be seen whether Southern voters would back the Jersey governor if he ran for president.

Note: Haley noted that Christie needn't worry about how he'll be treated. "I'll just remind you that South Carolina was just named the friendliest state in the country," she said. "We welcome everybody."

Star-Ledger: Christie-Haley GOP ticket for 2016? Not so fast, says South Carolina gov

http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/09/christie-haley_gop_ticket_for_2016_not_so_fast_says_south_carolina_gov.html

Matt Arco

Gov. Chris Christie praised South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley when he came here Tuesday to campaign for her ahead of the upcoming November elections. But is it possible the two could team up if Christie decides to run for president? Don't get ahead of yourself, Haley said.

Note: When prodded on a Christie-Haley 2016 ticket, the South Carolina governor responded with a smile: "You know, right now I'm trying to do Haley for governor 2014, so that's where my focus is."

Note: "I appreciate Gov. Christie saying 'whatever you need, whenever you need it,'" she said. "This is not a race that we're taking lightly and the fact that he would come to South Carolina and help campaign for us means a lot."

Post and Courier: Gubernatorial hopefuls make pitch to seniors

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1603/140919540>

Thad Moore

Gov. Nikki Haley and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, her Democratic challenger, didn't agree on much Tuesday as they addressed seniors at the Statehouse. For the most part, they didn't even talk about the same issues. In a combined hour of speaking, they seemed to agree on only one thing, and even then their accord was tenuous.

Note: Aside from that issue, Haley and Sheheen were at odds. Haley led off her pitch with the economy. South Carolina's growing economy and quality of life, she said, has drawn seniors to the state "in droves."

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Sheheen says DSS 'dropped the ball again'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140917/PC1603/140919519>

Cynthia Roldan

How many days did it take before someone blamed the Department of Social Services for the deaths of the five Lexington children? Let's find out. But Democratic Gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen took the longer route and finally arrived Tuesday, making him the first lawmaker to officially blame the agency in the deaths of the five children killed allegedly by their father, 32-year-old Timothy Ray Jones.

Note: "Vincent Sheheen has long been known as someone who will try to take political advantage of any tragedy, but we didn't think even he would stoop so low as to politicize one of saddest situations in state history, while everyone is still mourning," said Doug Mayer, Haley spokesman. "It's shameful and disgusting."

Associated Press: Sheheen calls for federal investigation into DSS

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Y0YUJ3X2

Gov. Nikki Haley's Democratic opponent is calling for a federal investigation into South Carolina's Department of Social Services. Sen. Vincent Sheheen said Tuesday the U.S. attorney in South Carolina should look into allegations he's heard from potential whistleblowers that the Cabinet agency has misused federal money.

Florence Morning News: Sabb wins Senate 32 run-off

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_2d815dc0-3dfb-11e4-8d62-0017a43b2370.html

Christopher McKagen

S.C. Rep. Ronnie Sabb, D-101, won the Democratic Primary run-off for South Carolina's 32nd District Tuesday night by 58.7 percent of the vote over Williamsburg County Councilman Sam Floyd. With the victory, Sabb's name will be the only to appear on the ballot for November's general election, as there were no Republican candidates, and he will likely become the state's newest senator.

DSS Hearing News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Lourie: DSS needs 'executive plan of action today'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC1603/140919584/1177/sen-lourie-dss-needs-executive-plan-of-action-today>

Cynthia Roldan

Two prominent Democrats took aim at the state's troubled Department of Social Services Tuesday. As state Sen. Joel Lourie asked the agency's acting director to tap into reserves or request emergency cash to hire more caseworkers, Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Vincent Sheheen called for the U.S. District Attorney's office to investigate the embattled agency.

Note: Doug Mayer, Haley's spokesman, was critical of Sheheen's remarks in a written statement. "Vincent Sheheen has long been known as someone who will try to take political advantage of any tragedy, but we didn't think even he would stoop so low as to politicize one of saddest situations in state history, while everyone is still mourning," Mayer said. "It's shameful and disgusting."

The State: SC senators to Social Services: Hire more caseworkers now

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/16/3684812_acting-dss-director-mum-on-why.html?rh=1

Jamie Self

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, asked the S.C. Department of Social Services to take two weeks to devise a plan to hire more caseworkers as soon as possible – citing a Richland County caseworker with more than 100 children to look after.

Note: Haley's office accused Sheheen of playing politics. "Vincent Sheheen has long been known as someone who will try to take political advantage of any tragedy, but we didn't think even he would stoop so low as to politicize one of saddest situations in state history, while everyone is still mourning," said Haley spokesman Doug Mayer. "It's shameful and disgusting."

Associated Press: Senators: DSS must quickly hire caseworkers

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lyHeO0qg

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's Department of Social Services must immediately hire more caseworkers to stem a child welfare crisis and not wait until legislators pass a budget next year, state senators said Tuesday.

Note: But Haley's Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, said after the hearing that "five more children have come to harm in this state after DSS dropped the ball again." Haley's office called it shameful Sheheen would try to take political advantage of the tragedy

Greenville News: DSS: More caseworkers needed

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/16/dss-caseworkers-needed/15713889/>

Tim Smith

But there are questions about whether the state Department of Social Services has the ability to hire many workers before next year. DSS officials confirmed Tuesday that the agency already has 41 vacant child welfare positions and one of the agency's harshest critics admitted it might be hard to quickly hire hundreds of additional workers.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Action needed now for SC roads

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/09/16/editorial-action-needed-now-sc-roads/15728775/>

Editorial

South Carolina has some of the worst roads in the country and some of the most dangerous ones, too. Legislators repeatedly have failed to address this problem in an adequate manner, and the result has been that the price tag for fixing the crumbling road system has risen dramatically.

Post and Courier: Mount Pleasant recreation tax strikes out - for now

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140917/PC1002/140919526>

Editorial

Mount Pleasant needs additional recreation facilities to accommodate the thousands of new residents who have made it one of South Carolina's fastest growing municipalities. And the residents of Mount Pleasant are willing to pay for them, according to a study by Clemson University's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management.

Post and Courier: Alarmist rhetoric 'as we know it'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140917/PC1002/140919525>

Editorial

Calling it "poetic license" unfairly insults poets. But many politicians do habitually indulge in the "partisan license" of extreme exaggeration - especially during election years. And U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., took that tradition into hyper-hyperbole mode late last week.

Times and Democrat (Guest column): Party trumps race in S.C. politics

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/party-trumps-race-in-s-c-politics/article_e927ab6c-3e21-11e4-99ec-477e8c501430.html

Phil Noble

In November, South Carolina will make history by electing its first African-American to the U.S. Senate. And if the polls are to be believed, it will be Republican Tim Scott. Ironically, he will be elected without significant African-American support on the Republican ticket — the party that is widely perceived to be indifferent, if not hostile, to African-Americans.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

McClatchy DC: SC GOP congressmen criticize Obama's ISIS plan

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/16/6331273_sc-gop-congressmen-criticize-obamas.html?rh=1

Ali Watkins

South Carolina's Republican delegation is skeptical of the president's plan to combat the Islamic State, and many say the commander-in-chief's hastily announced strategy to arm moderate Syrian rebel groups needs

to be reconsidered.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Committee promises comprehensive SC road fix

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=db6WEmx9

Jeffrey Collins

A special legislative committee brought together to figure out how to improve South Carolina's roads will need to find a solution that both finds more money and realigns the state's roads agency to better spend those funds, the committee chairman said Tuesday.

Note: Last year, lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley agreed to use a mix of revenue from new growth, reallocated sales taxes from vehicles and borrowing to raise an extra \$1 billion for roads over 10 years.

The State: Repairing SC roads is state's biggest challenge, panel told

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/16/3685962/repairing-sc-roads-is-states-biggest.html>

Cassie Cope

Repairing South Carolina's roads is the state's biggest challenge, acting House Speaker Jay Lucas said Tuesday, charging a newly formed infrastructure panel with finding a solution. The Darlington Republican referenced the \$42 billion shortfall in the amount of money that the state expects to have to build and repair roads and bridges and the projected cost of doing that work through 2040.

Anderson Independent: Senate committee plans reaction to recent court rulings

http://www.independentmail.com/news/senate-committee-plans-reaction-to-recent-court-rulings_89471708

Abe Hardesty

South Carolina state Sen. Larry Martin says two Freedom of Information issues need to be addressed by the state legislature when it convenes in January. "It's my intention that we address those issues very early in the next session," said Martin, the chairman of the senate's Freedom of Information Act Study Committee. "They're both important."

The State: SC senators want agendas public, disagree on autopsies

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/16/3685986/sc-senators-want-agendas-public.html>

Cassie Cope

A state Senate panel wants city and county councils to continue to issue agendas. But some members were less sure Tuesday whether the public should have access to autopsies. The panel, studying recent Supreme Court rulings that have restricted public access to some records, also is looking at whether the state's investigations into child deaths should remain secret.

South Carolina News:

Island Packet: RBC Heritage had \$96 million impact in 2014, study says

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/16/3317231_report-rbc-heritage-adds-64-million.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Matt McNab

The 2014 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing may have had some weather troubles, but the rain in April didn't douse the tournament's economic impact. Hilton Head Island's annual PGA Tour event added about \$96.142 million to the local economy, according to a survey and study completed by Clemson University's International Institute for Tourism Research and Development.

Associated Press: RBC Heritage golf tourney has \$96 million impact

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=eFsB89qi

Officials of the RBC Heritage golf tournament say this year's event had an economic impact of more than \$96 million. The Heritage Classic Foundation released details of the study on Tuesday. The survey of the PGA Tour event was conducted by Clemson University's International Institute for Tourism Research and Development.

Greenville News: Drought declared in parts of S.C.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/16/drought-declared-parts-sc/15727667/>

Eric Connor

With the record amounts of rain that have fallen in the Upstate as recently as a few days ago, it might seem

far-fetched that any part of South Carolina could be in a drought. Yet, for the first time since two springs ago, state officials today moved some areas of the state into drought status.

Post and Courier: Boeing expects 787 production costs to come down in 2016, exec says

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC05/140919538>

Warren L. Wise

The high costs of building the 787 Dreamliner will begin descending in 2016 when Boeing Co. ramps up production even further on its newest passenger jet, a top executive for the planemaker said Tuesday.

Post and Courier: Shareholders OK sale of South Carolina's First Citizens Bank

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140916/PC05/140919534>

John McDermott

Shareholders have signed off on a deal to combine one of the oldest and biggest banks based in South Carolina and a larger North Carolina lender with a similar name. The merger of First Citizens Bancorporation of Columbia and Raleigh's First Citizens BancShares Inc. will create the largest family-controlled bank in the country.

Local News:

The State: Lexington Sheriff McCarty indicates some facts on Jones' childrens' deaths may be made public

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/16/3685934/lexington-sheriff-mccarty-indicates.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty indicated Tuesday he could well make public limited facts about how five children were killed – at the right time, and only after consulting with prosecutors and Coroner Earl Wells.

Aiken Standard: SRS hiring boosts local economy

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140917/AIK0101/140919560/1004/srs-hiring-boosts-local-economy>

Derrek Asberry

The Savannah River Site's operations and management contractor reported it has hired 387 workers over the last 12 months to support new missions and is expecting to create a workforce that will go well into the 2030s. Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, or SRNS, sent out a press release Monday with the statistics and information on the missions.

Anderson Independent: County council considers incentives for Anderson companies

http://www.independentmail.com/news/local-news/county-council-considers-incentives-for-anderson-companies_97366488

Sarah Freishtat

The Anderson County Council voted Tuesday to give financial incentives to Glen Raven Custom Fabrics and considered incentives for two other companies. The incentives would allow all three companies, which are currently in Anderson, to expand, said Burriss Nelson, the county's economic development director.

Times and Democrat: DSS needs better facility, employees say

http://thetandd.com/news/local/dss-needs-better-facility-employees-say/article_87e88436-3e24-11e4-ac89-3f9f1f1f485b.html

Fulton said she works at the county-owned building located at 2570 St. Matthews Road that houses, in part, the Department of Social Services and the Council on Aging. "What will the county be willing to do to give DSS a better facility?" she asked county leaders. For now, the Orangeburg County Department of Public Works is addressing maintenance needs as they arise, County Administrator Harold Young said.

The State: Columbia, Richland drug-lab plan fails

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/16/3685322/columbia-council-decides-against.html>

Clif LeBlanc

By a 5-2 vote, council endorsed a plan to continue having SLED perform testing of seized narcotics, at no charge to the city, while city leaders devise a long-term strategy for building a better evidence storage site and look toward a new police headquarters.

Associated Press: Nearly 100 people becoming citizens on SC coast

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jUf0RUnG

Nearly 100 people are becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony marking Constitutional Day

in Mount Pleasant. Constitution Day, which is Wednesday, is the anniversary of the day when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 signed the Constitution. It is also known as Citizenship Day.

National News:

Associated Press: Reid moves to ensure Yucca Mountain stays dead

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/yucca-mountain/reid-moves-ensure-yucca-mountain-stays-dead>

Erica Werner

Amid action in Congress to intensify the fight against Islamic State militants, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid found time Tuesday for an issue closer to home: ensuring that a nuclear waste dump in his home state of Nevada remains mothballed even after the government has spent \$15 billion on it.

Reuters: Islamic State campaign tests Obama's commitment to Mideast allies

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/us-iraq-crisis-usa-commitment-idUSKBN0HC0A720140917>

Jason Szep

After about 15 hours of flying and five hours of meetings, sleep finally caught up with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Baghdad. It was 6:04 p.m. After sinking into his seat at the center of the cavernous interior of a C-17 military transport plane, he cradled his head in his palm, put his feet on a desk and shut his eyes.

New York Times: G.O.P. Gains Strength and Obama Gets Low Marks, Poll Finds

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/09/16/us/politics/gop-gains-strength-and-obama-gets-low-marks-poll-finds.html?_r=0

Megan Thee-Brenan

A New York Times/CBS News poll also shows the president's approval ratings are similar to those of President George W. Bush in 2006 when Democrats swept both houses of Congress. A deeply unpopular Republican Party is nonetheless gaining strength heading into the midterm elections, as the American public's frustration with President Obama has manifested itself in low ratings for his handling of foreign policy and terrorism.

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