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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: Haley's welfare program debated

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130831/NEWS09/308310023/Haley-s-welfare-program-debated>
Tim Smith

Gov. Nikki Haley is so proud of the state's achievements under its welfare-to-work program that she includes highlights of the program on her campaign website. More than 18,000 people have transitioned from welfare to work under the program since she took office, she said, with 94 percent of those retaining their jobs. "From the start, getting South Carolinians off welfare and back to work wasn't about keeping compliance officers in Washington, D.C., happy. It was about getting our citizens back to work," Haley said in July. While even Democrats laud the program and the life-changing stories of those finding jobs, some of them say there are legitimate questions about the numbers, the impact of the program on the state's poverty level and whether the program is placing some families in a more precarious financial spot when those jobs don't come with benefits.

Anderson Independent: Plant expansion will create 50 jobs in Anderson County

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/aug/30/plant-expansion-will-create-50-jobs-in-anderson/>
Kirk Brown

A company announced a \$5 million plant expansion Friday that will create 50 new jobs in Anderson County. Fraenkische Industrial Pipes will add 20,000 square feet of space to its facility near the Bosch plant on North S.C. 81. "We are very happy to be expanding again in Anderson," said Joe Roznowski, president and chief executive officer for Fraenkische North America. "We have grown from 20 employees in 2009 at the worst of the great recession to over 100 employees now." "Anderson County has been a great partner through the years, supporting our initiatives, and the location here in the Southeast is central to many of our large customers," Roznowski said. "This expansion and growth would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our employees as well."

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley said the expansion "is a testament to the success companies can find here in the Palmetto State." State Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt said, "South Carolina's manufacturing renaissance continues to gather steam with announcements like this one from Fraenkische Industrial Pipes."

WTOC: SC Gov. Nikki Haley encourages reading at Estill Elementary

http://m.wtoc.com/autojuice?targetUrl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wtoc.com%2fstory%2f23304518%2fgov-nikki-haley-stops-by-estill-elementary-school%3futm_source%3dtwitterfeed%26utm_medium%3dtwitter

Vanessa Nguyen

Teachers often face the challenge of a "summer slide" with their students as they return to school. That's the learning loss that happens as students leave for the summer. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley stopped by Estill Elementary School to encourage students to keep on reading. As part of their reading mission, Haley and Scholastic publishing representatives surprised the students of Estill Elementary School with a generous gift. The students and staff at Estill Elementary School welcomed the governor with a special song and dance.

Note: "In these rural areas, sometimes reading is a good way to get away, it's kind of an adventure, it's an experience, I grew up in a rural town and going to the library and picking up a book was kind of like an adventure for me because you picked up a book and that's what kept you busy," said Haley.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Florence Morning News: Thumbs up to help for area farmers — finally

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_789b10e8-1198-11e3-984a-0019bb30f31a.html
Editorial

Thumbs up for low-interest loans being made available to farmers in all 46 counties in the state of South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley and Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers appealed to the federal government for relief from the soggy weather that has damaged crops and delayed planting for many state farmers. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's farm disaster declaration will make low-interest loans through the South Carolina Farm Service Agency for eligible farmers to help make ends meet if their fields yield low harvest numbers this growing season.

Sun News: Labor Day a celebration for all workers, a challenge for politicians

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/08/31/3678499/editorial-labor-day-a-celebration.html#storylink=cpy>
Editorial

Labor Day, a holiday celebrated in some states for 126 years, has long had a connection to U.S. political campaigns. In even-numbered election years, this is the traditional time when candidates -- more accurately, the candidates' handlers and spinmeisters -- shift into a higher gear. Thankfully, voters have several months until the November 2014 off-year election; nevertheless, the S.C. political pot is warming. By Labor Day 2014, it likely will be at a full boil, and it is reasonable to expect that the state's employment rate, business recruitment and unpopularity of labor unions are going to emerge as issues.

Note: Gov. Haley and her economic development folks surely deserve credit for attracting business and jobs. Bobby Hitt, head of the S.C. Commerce Department, says the state "has recruited more than \$9 billion in capital investment and more than 26,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector" since Haley took office in January 2011. Haley and others love to tout that South Carolina's a so-called "right to work" state and there's no doubt that a lower wage-and-benefit cost is an attraction to companies such as PTR Industries, which is relocating to Horry County from Connecticut. There are other attractions, of course.

Post and Courier: Sales tax requires serious scrutiny

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130831/PC1002/130839903/1021/sales-tax-requires-serious-scrutiny>
Editorial

Charleston County schools ought to be large enough and functional enough to serve the county's children. Charleston County ought to have libraries that are accessible and useful to the public. And the county ought to have adequate streets, roads and highways so people can get to those schools, libraries and other destinations. But Charleston County residents are already paying 8.5 percent sales tax on every dollar they spend, and that's a significant bite out of their budgets — particularly low-income consumers. (The state with the highest combined state and local sales tax is Tennessee, at 9.49 percent.)

Post and Courier: Columbia, a capital place to live

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130831/PC1002/130839899/1021/columbia-a-capital-place-to-live>
Editorial

Charleston, we need to have a talk. This is a striking and exceptional city and one could never grow tired of viewing the charming marshes and salty waters of your dynamic coastline. You are great — there is no doubting it. So, it's hard to understand why it would be an important use of your time to engage in a silly schoolyard fight with another city in your state. I moved here six months ago from Columbia (you know, the one with "list envy") and each resident of the Holy City makes it a priority to tell me what an awful place I have just escaped from — as if our state capital is a void and stagnant hole people step into by accident. It's not that this line of conversation is impolite — it's just silly. Columbia does not stay in night after night in its pajamas watching Kardashian reruns and wishing it were Charleston or Greenville.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC inmate critiques law from inside the system

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/31/2952089/sc-inmate-critiques-law-from-inside.html#storylink=cpy>
Adam Beam

In 1996, Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that state prisons are only required to give inmates the tools they need to challenge their sentences, not "transform themselves into litigating engines capable of filing everything from shareholder derivative actions to slip-and-fall claims." But Scalia has never met Demetrio Sears. The 31-year-old Columbia man has served 11 years of an 18-year prison sentence for armed robbery. Sears — who has a GED — spent his time studying the law. Now, the prison law library clerk has a distinction most lawyers do not: a published article in the University of South Carolina Law Review.

The State: Judge: Merger of Richland County election offices unconstitutional

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/30/2951706/judge-merger-of-richland-county.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

A SC circuit court judge issued a blunt ruling that the 2011 merger of Richland County's elections and voter registration offices violates the state constitution. "The General Assembly has returned to its unconstitutional practice of enacting special and single county legislation," Judge Thomas Cooper wrote in an order made public Thursday. "The Supreme Court has repeatedly found such actions of the General Assembly unconstitutional." Observers said his ruling voids the 2011 law that reorganized separate county offices and ramped up spending in the year leading up to the November 2012 election, a presidential vote that turned out to be one of the biggest disasters in state history.

Greenville News: Upstate congressmen say Obama needs OK to act against Syria

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130831/NEWS/308310014/Upstate-congressmen-say-Obama-needs-OK-act-against-Syria>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

All three Upstate congressmen said President Barack Obama should get approval from Congress before taking military action against Syria, but there were no signs Friday evening that lawmakers would have a chance to vote first. GOP Reps. Trey Gowdy, Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney are among about 140 House members who on Wednesday warned the president against a military strike without permission from Congress. "Engaging our military in Syria when no direct threat to the United States exists and without prior congressional authorization would violate the separation of powers that is clearly delineated in the Constitution," a group of Republican and Democratic members wrote to Obama. On Friday, Secretary of State John Kerry said intelligence officials had clear evidence that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime launched chemical weapons on Aug. 21, killing 1,429 Syrians, including at least 426 children in the suburbs of Damascus.

Post and Courier: S.C. lawmakers cool on Syrian intervention

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130830/PC16/130839925/1006/sc-lawmakers-cool-on-syrian-intervention>

Schuyler Kropf

The White House's closest political ally in South Carolina isn't convinced it's time for U.S. intervention in Syria. Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn said Friday that while he hasn't been a part of the Syrian intelligence reviews, he personally has not seen a clearly defined need to launch a military strike. "What's the rush?" he said during a telephone interview. "There's no rush for this." Clyburn, the only Democrat in the state's nine-member Washington delegation, agreed with the world view that President Bashar al-Assad is a tyrant. But he said the evidence for direct military action would have to be compelling for him to support such a step.

Greenville News: Group sues nuclear regulators

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130831/NEWS07/308310026/Group-sues-nuclear-regulators>

Eric Connor

An advocacy group for public employees is suing federal nuclear regulators over documents they say are unlawfully withheld — documents they say would prove the government have been covering up concern over what would happen to Oconee Nuclear Station should the Jocassee Dam ever fail. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility against the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. An NRC spokesman told GreenvilleOnline.com that the agency that regulates the nuclear industry will present its case in court. The suit alleges that the NRC has improperly cited the Freedom of Information Act to withhold internal communications that show just how concerned NRC engineers have been over Oconee's plans for fending off floodwaters unleashed in the unlikely event of a dam failure.

Anderson Independent: New voter ID cards panned

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/aug/30/new-voter-id-cards-panned/>

Kirk Brown

The voter ID cards that South Carolina elections officials began distributing this year after a costly legal battle are drawing criticism. The cards feature a postage-stamp-sized photo that is "too small to include the detail required for reliable identification," complained Eleanor Hare, who serves as a director for the League of Women Voters of South Carolina. She is a retired Clemson University faculty member who was the first woman at the school to receive a doctorate in computer science. The new voter ID cards also lack key security features, Hare said. "The card does not use any of the holograms, multiple photographs, laser

engraving or micro-printing commonly used to prevent counterfeiting,” Hare said in an article in this month’s newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area. “Only the clumsiest counterfeiter would be unable to produce a South Carolina Voter Photo ID.”

Florence Morning News: 6 plead guilty to education loan fraud in SC

http://www.scnw.com/news/state/article_b6e63c88-1198-11e3-ae38-0019bb30f31a.html

Six people in South Carolina have pleaded guilty to lying on an application for federal education aid.

U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles said Friday all six pleaded guilty in Florence to education loan fraud. Prosecutors say the defendants gave all their information to a seventh person, who filled out federal student aid applications, saying any money that was received would be used for education. But Nettles says the defendants did not use the money for school or pay any of it back. The defendants will be sentenced later. They each face up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Local News:

Times and Democrat: AG: SCSU trustee remains on board despite solons’ vote

http://thetandd.com/news/local/education/ag-scsu-trustee-remains-on-board-despite-solons-vote/article_be5169e0-11f5-11e3-b0a3-001a4bcf887a.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Linda Edwards-Duncan will continue to serve on the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees in spite of failing to be re-elected by state lawmakers in May. Attorney General Alan Wilson issued an opinion on Thursday saying that Edwards-Duncan “continues to serve in a holdover capacity” until a successor is elected. Wilson’s opinion followed a request by S.C. State Board Vice Chairman Bob Waldrep, who’s headed the board since former Chair Dr. Walter L. Tobin left office on June 30. The state law that created the board states that a trustee remains on board until they are replaced, Waldrep said. However, there was a question about whether the legislature’s refusal to re-elect Edwards-Duncan removed her from office. Since no one ran against her, there was no one to replace her, he said.

Rock Hill Herald: Rock Hill school board names interim superintendent

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/08/30/5164506/rock-hill-school-board-names-interim.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

The Rock Hill school board has hired John Taylor as interim superintendent, starting sometime in September. Taylor worked for Rock Hill schools from 1988 to 1995 as associate superintendent of long-range planning, staff development and community involvement. He was superintendent of schools in Dillon before moving to Rock Hill and Lancaster County’s superintendent after he left Rock Hill. Before that, he held several administrative and teaching positions across the state. Superintendent Lynn Moody resigned Monday to lead the Rowan-Salisbury School System in North Carolina. Her last day in Rock Hill will be Sept. 30.

Index-Journal: Rec loses tax-exemption status

<http://www.indexjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=40&ArticleID=20573>

Matt Bruce

A Greenwood nonprofit involved in ongoing revitalization efforts at the recreation center along Seaboard Avenue lost its tax-exemption status. According to Internal Revenue Service records, Beyond the Walls Family Restoration Center had its 501(c)(3) status revoked in May because of the organization’s failure to file proper paperwork. Beyond the Walls Family Restoration Center is the current incarnation of the venerable recreation center at 420 Seaboard Ave., affectionately and colloquially dubbed “the Rec” by residents in the cluster of neighborhoods it serves. The six-acre facility, formerly known as the R.L. Stevens Center, was a haven of physical recreation, mentoring and community on Greenwood’s south end before it was shuttered in January 2009. Since then, it remained largely in disrepair.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Sheriff, councilmen discuss county’s communications department in closed meeting

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20130830/ARTICLES/130839942/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Sheriff-councilmen-discuss-county-s-communications-department-in-closed-meeting>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Several Spartanburg County Council members and Sheriff Chuck Wright met Friday to discuss concerns about 911 communications and possibly transferring leadership of the department to the sheriff’s office. Councilmen Michael Brown, Dale Culbreth and David Britt attended the meeting, which was not public, and

the media was not notified. Culbreth said he has been struggling with communications for about a year on behalf of area fire departments as a result of radio malfunctions. Britt said Wright told him about some ongoing concerns with the 911 communications department, and he had also heard some comments from constituents.

Times and Democrat: Longleaf restoration project renewed for Santee Refuge

http://thetandd.com/business/longleaf-restoration-project-renewed-for-santee-refuge/article_cdce0de4-11b7-11e3-a320-001a4bcf887a.html

In 2007 the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, The Conservation Fund and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service came together to unveil a national agreement supporting restoration of wildlife habitat and addressed climate change by planting native trees on National Wildlife Refuge lands. The program has been renewed at Santee NWR for 2013-14 with the restoration and reforestation of 448 acres of longleaf pine and 9 acres of bottomland hardwood on the refuge. In a partnership with The Conservation Fund, about 415 acres on the Cuddo Unit and 33 acres on the Pine Island Unit will be restored and replanted with native longleaf pine forest. Additionally, 9 acres of bottomland forest will be restored on the Cuddo Unit by planting trees.

National News:

The Hill: Obama: US strike against Syria would be narrow, limited

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/319681-obama-us-strike-against-syria-would-be-narrow-limited>

Justin Sink

President Obama said Friday that the U.S. is considering a "limited" and "narrow" military strike against Syria given its confidence the regime hit civilians with chemical weapons. While the president stressed he had "not made a final decision about various actions that might be taken," he said the world had "an obligation to make sure we maintain the norm against the use of chemical weapons. This kind of attack is a challenge to the world," Obama said. "We cannot accept a world where women and children and innocent civilians are gassed on a terrible scale."

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