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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Greenville News: What's the real cost to fix SC's roads?

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2014/05/03/real-cost-fix-scs-roads/8677671/>

Tim Smith

The \$48.3 billion officials say is needed over the next 20 years to fix the state's roads and bridges amounts to \$1.1 million for every mile of state-maintained road in the state.

Note: Some want to raise the state's gas tax, last increased in 1987. Gov. Nikki Haley has vowed to veto any such increase. She suggests dedicating annual surpluses averaging more than \$100 million to fund roads and bridges.

Aiken Standard: Signs banning guns have legal requirements

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140504/AIK0102/140509805/1004/signs-banning-guns-have-legal-requirements>

Teddy Kulmala

Fixed among the glowing neon signs for Michelob Ultra, Shock Top and Blue Moon is a new, albeit simpler sign in the front window of Playoffs Sports Bar & Grill: No concealable weapons allowed.

Note: The sign in the downtown Aiken establishment is the result of a new law approved by Gov. Nikki Haley in February that allows concealed weapons permit holders to carry their concealed weapons into bars and places serving alcohol.

Anderson Independent: Campaign notes: Probate judge candidates hit trail hard

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/03/campaign-notes-candidates-for-judge-hit-trail/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown, Nikie Mayo

The race to become Anderson County's next probate judge has prompted two candidates to hit the campaign trail harder than many hopefuls seeking offices in this part of the Upstate.

Note: A baby's death has prompted two of Gov. Nikki Haley's challengers to renew their call for the ouster of South Carolina Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller.

Times and Democrat: As clock ticks, Matthews says SCSU won't fail

http://thetandd.com/news/as-clock-ticks-matthews-says-scsu-won-t-fail/article_4b4558b0-d33f-11e3-acf1-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

"We're not going to let the university fail," said Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman. "I can tell you we're going to put it together, but I can't tell you how it's going to happen." Matthew's promise follows the S.C. Budget and Control Board's decision Wednesday to allow South Carolina State University to borrow \$6 million.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Post and Courier: Independent Tom Ervin, the improbable, reluctant dark horse for governor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140503/PC1603/140509724/1031/independent-tom-ervin-the-improbable-reluctant-dark-horse-for-governor>

Jeremy Borden

Tom Ervin wants to be the next governor of South Carolina. There are more than a couple of problems with that: He basically has no staff, little time, little money and a cadre of political experts who say it simply can't be done.

Note: Haley's team isn't worried. "Gov. Haley takes every opponent seriously, but we are just as comfortable running against two trial lawyers who support Obamacare and higher taxes as we were when it

was just one," said Rob Godfrey, a campaign spokesman. Koller and Haley's team have said that DSS has improved under Koller's leadership. Ervin called the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, "flawed beyond repair" and believes it should be repealed. He said he would support a gas tax dedicated to improving the state's crumbling infrastructure. He thinks the state's individual income tax should be done away with completely; he does not favor other tax increases.

Associated Press: Democrats bring optimism to Columbia at convention

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zIY1lxLW

South Carolina Democrats came to their convention in Columbia this weekend optimistic they can stem a Republican tide that has taken over the state. State Democratic Party Chairman Jamie Harrison said the party has put out solid candidates in all statewide races, topped by state Sen. Vincent Sheheen's second run for the governor's office.

Associated Press: SC Sen. Graham avoids big re-election challenge

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3DzTedVk

Jeffrey Collins

Here's how Sen. Lindsey Graham is navigating through six challengers in South Carolina's Republican primary: goodwill, shrewd politics and nearly \$7 million in campaign cash. Rep. Mick Mulvaney was thought to be a credible challenger in the June 10 primary, until Graham inspired House leaders to give Mulvaney a seat on the House Financial Services Committee.

The State: Graham money machine marches toward June SC primary

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/03/3425419/graham-money-machine-marches-toward.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham opened the 2014 election year with a \$1 million ad blitz on television, radio and the Internet – about the same amount of money that his six GOP challengers in June's primary raised combined in the year's first three months.

Post and Courier: Charleston County GOP straw poll for US Senate favors Bright, Graham places third

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140503/PC16/140509746/charleston-county-gop-straw-poll-for-us-senate-favors-bright-graham-places-third>

Schuyler Kropf

Charleston County Republicans met for a barbecue stump and straw poll where incumbent U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham was a popular target of those trying to oust him. "We have six weeks to defeat Lindsey Graham or we are going to have six more years of Lindsey Graham," said Upstate businessman Richard Cash, one of six Republicans challenging him in the June 10 GOP primary.

Florence Morning News: Graham supporters meet candidate, hit Florence streets

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_506c35d2-d2f1-11e3-9fd7-0017a43b2370.html

Supporters of Sen. Lindsey Graham's re-election bid gathered at Krispy Kreme on West Palmetto Street in Florence Saturday morning for a few words of encouragement from their candidate before they hit the streets for some old-fashion politicking.

The State: Superintendent candidate calls for legalizing marijuana to pay for education system

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/03/3424874/superintendent-candidate-calls.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

South Carolina superintendent of education candidate Sheila Gallagher called for legalizing marijuana when she addressed Democrats at the South Carolina Democratic Party convention in Columbia on Saturday afternoon.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index-Journal: Emma's life was taken, others will be saved

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Emma-s-life-was-taken--others-will-be-saved/8/154/25281>

Editorial

Emma Longstreet's name will forever be a part of South Carolina's history. Her parents, however, probably would have been happy to have had their daughter live a long and relatively obscure life. That was not to be. Emma was 6 when a repeat offender drunk driver killed her in 2012. Her parents, David and Karen

Longstreet of Lexington, were vocal advocates for imposing stronger penalties for drunk drivers in South Carolina.

Times and Democrat: History speaks to necessity for S.C. State

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/history-speaks-to-necessity-for-s-c-state/article_f34a5064-d269-11e3-9f47-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Remarks about university and future; OUR OPINION: S.C. State can be proud of its open-door mission. South Carolina State University President Thomas Elzey says the words of S.C. Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom were misunderstood.

The State: SC's counties should determine level of funding for elections offices

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/04/3423261/editorial-scs-counties-should.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

WITH A JUDGE having struck down Richland County's single-county law that merged the election and voter registration boards, County Council has not only the right but the responsibility to determine the level at which to fund the newly separated offices.

Greenville News: Council should send roads tax to voters

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/05/03/editorial-council-send-roads-tax-voters/8630541/>

Editorial

County Council probably will vote this week for the first time on whether to let voters decide if Greenville County should use a temporary 1 percent sales tax to fund much-needed road improvements. Although opponents will loudly trumpet reasons for County Council to kill the plan, there is absolutely no rational reason to not approve the measure and give the voters the ultimate say on this question.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Senate committee votes to raise your county and municipal taxes

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140504/OPINION/405041017/1128/opinion?Title=Senate-committee-votes-to-raise-your-county-and-municipal-taxes>

Editorial

The S.C. Senate Finance Committee voted to increase your taxes last week, but it voted to do it in a way that will put the blame on county and municipal officials. The senators on the committee wanted to expand the state's 4K program.

Post and Courier: Demand action on DSS

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140504/PC1002/140509766/demand-action-on-dss>

Editorial

Any one of the sad stories described to the S.C. Senate's DSS Oversight Subcommittee is enough to call for changes at the agency. Add them together, and the "call" becomes a "demand." Problems must be addressed without delay.

Florence Morning News: RGA off base with attack ad on Sheheen

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_ee206d68-d23b-11e3-9b3e-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

Gubernatorial candidate and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, is under attack from the Republican Governors Association (RGA) for being, gasp, a "trial lawyer." As a criminal defense attorney, the RGA claims Sheheen has made money off criminals and defended those accused of child and sex abuse.

Rock Hill Herald: Extending clemency to nonviolent inmates

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/03/5927995/extending-clemency-to-nonviolent.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

In 2010, Congress acted to reduce the disparity in mandatory minimum standards used to sentence criminals, particularly in regard to drug offenders. Last week, President Barack Obama announced that the Justice Department would take the next logical step – rescuing some of the thousands of inmates still serving time under the old, unfair sentencing rules.

Legislative Session News:

Anderson Independent: Budget debate set to begin in S.C. Senate

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/03/budget-debate-set-to-begin-in-sc-senate/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The Senate Finance Committee approved a budget proposal last week that includes \$54 million in added money for higher education, 4-year-old kindergarten and school buses than the \$24 billion spending plan approved by the state House of Representatives in March.

Post and Courier: Crossover week: What survived and what didn't in the South Carolina Legislature

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140504/PC1603/140509815/1031/crossover-week-what-survived-and-what-didnt-in-the-south-carolina-legislature>

Cynthia Roldan, Jeremy Borden

Last week was slightly hectic with both chambers full of energy as lawmakers worked with each other to get their measures passed. It was crossover week and both bodies were working to send each other bills in order to receive normal consideration for approval before the session ends during the first week of June.

Aiken Standard: S.C. Senate approves bill to repeal Common Core

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140503/AIK0101/140509796/1007/AIK0101/sc-senate-approves-bill-to-repeal-common-core>

Rob Novit

Before the Common Core academic standards take effect in 2015, they will go away entirely by then. Or maybe not. The S.C. Senate unanimously approved a bill on Thursday that repeals Common Core with the expectation that South Carolina will create its own standards to take effect in August 2015.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Associated Press: With 1 year in Senate, Scott in 1st statewide race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UoWL3MBY

Meg Kinnard

After more than a year in the U.S. Senate, South Carolina Republican Tim Scott will soon be in his first statewide contest. And that, according to some of those vying to replace him, puts them on a level playing field with the incumbent.

South Carolina News:

Florence Morning News: Boeing is helping bring aviation technology jobs throughout the state

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_c713b09a-d303-11e3-bdaf-0017a43b2370.html

John D. Russell

Aerospace became big business in South Carolina after Boeing opened its doors in 2011 in North Charleston. According to U.S. Labor Statistics data, South Carolina is tops in aerospace job growth over the past five years, and the South Carolina Department of Commerce says the state is home to more than 180 aerospace-related companies responsible for employing more than 20,000 people.

Post and Courier: Some College of Charleston donors say they will withhold contributions over Glenn McConnell's selection as president

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140503/PC16/140509813/1177/some-college-of-charleston-donors-say-they-will-withhold-contributions-over-glenn-mcconnells-selection-as-president>

Diane Knich

The controversial decision to hire Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as the College of Charleston's next president upset some donors so much that they might stop contributing to the school. But others say they will support the college, McConnell and the Board of Trustees' decision to hire him with both their voices and their checkbooks.

Aiken Standard: Common Core departure won't arrive for 15 months

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140504/AIK0101/140509806/1004/common-core-departure-won-t-arrive-for-15-months>

Rob Novit

With the controversial Common Core academic standards headed toward possible repeal for K-12 students in South Carolina, newly-introduced state standards will be established – but possibly with some parts of Common Core retained with a different name.

Post and Courier: S.C. firefighters, teachers, veterans and other "heroes" can get big home-buying incentives

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140504/PC05/140509842/1177/sc-firefighters-teachers-veterans-and-other-heroes-can-get-big-home-buying-incentives>

David Slade

South Carolina has increased incentives available to help people buy homes, as long as they are in certain professions or are veterans. With \$7,000 in downpayment assistance, below-market mortgage interest rates, and a federal tax credit, it's a pretty attractive offer.

Local News:

Greenville News: Program seeks to inspire STEM careers

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/03/program-seeks-inspire-stem-careers/8678583/>

Cheryl P. Allen

Groups of third- and fourth-graders huddled together at tables inside a small classroom during Chandler Creek Elementary's after-school program. They opened several plastic bags and examined the contents, which included batteries, coal, plastic fruit, a light bulb and other objects. Teacher Natalie Bostic's goal was to get students thinking about the importance of these everyday items.

Island Packet: Port Royal eyes countywide sales tax to fund port purchase

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/03/3092230/port-royal-eyes-countywide-sales.html?sp=/99/100&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Erin Moody

With no conventional financing options available allowing Port Royal to purchase the state port property in town, officials are looking for other ways to raise capital. And that includes a proposed 1 percent capital-projects sales tax that would be applied countywide.

National News:

Las Vegas Review-Journal: Own a small business? Brace for Obamacare pain

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/own-small-business-brace-obamacare-pain>

Jennifer Robison

Local business owners might be hoping the Affordable Care Act's insurance mandates cover sticker shock. The law's employer coverage mandate doesn't take effect until 2015, but early plan renewals are starting to roll in. And for some businesses, the premium jumps are positively painful.

Associated Press: Candidates talk campaign money, environment in Democratic Senate debate

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/3da4c7012d424801a9a661aeda22fa00/MT--Senate-Debate/#.U2ZFfldWSp>

Matt Volz

Three Democratic candidates made the case Saturday in the only scheduled debate before next month's primary election that each of them is the man to beat U.S. Rep. Steve Daines and keep Montana's U.S. Senate seat out of Republican hands.

Brian Symmes

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