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Governor Nikki Haley News

Greenville News: Bosch plans more US investment

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013303210011&nclick_check=1

Rudolph Bell

German industrial conglomerate Robert Bosch GmbH, which employs about 4,000 people across South Carolina, will continue investing in the United States, where its business last year fared better than elsewhere around the world, a member of the company's management board said Wednesday in Fountain Inn.

Note: Also speaking to about 100 people gathered under a big white tent for the ceremony was Gov. Nikki Haley. Talking to reporters about Tuesday night's Republican primary in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District, Haley said she hasn't thought about whether she'll make an endorsement in the coming runoff between former Gov. Mark Sanford, her one-time mentor, and Charleston County Councilman Curtis Bostic. Haley told reporters Sanford had called her Wednesday morning but she hadn't yet spoken to him.

The State: DHEC Launches Streamlined Permitting Process

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=j2XtMHNS

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has unveiled Permit Central, a new initiative that simplifies the process for obtaining health and environmental permits, the agency announced Thursday.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley joined agency director Catherine Templeton in describing the initiative as something that will speed businesses' progression through the permitting process.

The State: Food Stamp Forum Message: Don't Tell Us What To Buy!

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=6cDZWP3A

Joey Holleman

At a forum Thursday set up to hear what kinds of restrictions the public might suggest for food stamps, the resounding message was: None.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley believes limiting the purchase of some fatty and high-sugar items with food stamps could improve the health of food stamp recipients and reduce health care costs in the state.

Associated Press: DHEC wants to make getting permits in SC easier

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=aN64gzhs

The Department of Health and Environmental Control is taking several steps it says will simplify getting health and environmental permits. DHEC said Thursday it will create a panel of specialists in permit areas ranging from air to solid waste to health care that can help businesses navigate the permit process.

Associated Press: Haley to 'happily' sign sweepstakes machines bill

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=57cLLd3O

A bill aimed at shutting down sweepstakes cafes in South Carolina will soon become law. The House gave final approval Thursday to a bill specifying that sweepstakes machines are illegal video gambling.

Note: The vote sends it to Gov. Nikki Haley. Her spokesman Rob Godfrey says she will happily sign it. Godfrey says Haley believes South Carolina should not settle for such gambling because "our great state has too much going for it to sink to that level."

South Carolina News

Post And Courier: Sanford receives lunchtime support from former opponent Blandford
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130321/PC16/130329833/1284/sanford-receives-lunchtime-support-from-former-opponent-blandford>

Robert Behre

Former Gov. Mark Sanford spent lunchtime looking for votes in the 1st congressional district Republican primary at a familiar place, the Sticky Fingers restaurant where he celebrated his 2002 gubernatorial win. Joining him for lunch is Keith Blandford, a former candidate who is now endorsing Sanford.

Post And Courier: Hospital Association continues push for Medicaid expansion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130322/PC16/130329768/1177/hospital-association-continues-push-for-medicaid-expansion>

Lauren Sausser

The S.C. House of Representatives voted against expanding Medicaid in South Carolina last week, but that's not keeping the South Carolina Hospital Association from trying to convince lawmakers that it's a good idea. The Association launched an online petition this week called Remedy SC. Members of the public are allowed to sign onto the petition's website and show their support for expanding Medicaid.

The State: Richland officials to focus on jail guards, mental health

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2687624/richland-officials-to-focus-on.html#storylink=cpy>

Richland County officials on a special jail review committee appeared poised Thursday to concentrate on two key areas – raising detention officer pay to attract a higher caliber guard and focusing on the management of the large number of inmates with mental health issues..

The State: Darlington readies for wider fans ... and saving its tax break

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2687443/senators-advance-bill-modifying.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

If it's not careful, Darlington Raceway could exempt itself from its own tax exemption. The 63-year-old race track has plans to widen its seats, currently 18 inches wide, in order to make the race more comfortable for its fans, according to track president Chris Browning. But if it does that, Darlington's capacity would fall below 60,000 seats – the threshold required to qualify for an exemption to the state admissions tax.

The State: SC senators back big waste companies

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2687646/sc-senators-back-big-waste-companies.html#storylink=misearch>

Sammy Fretwell

National waste corporations are gaining ground in their push to win a larger share of the garbage market in South Carolina. A Senate committee voted 9-4 Thursday for a bill that blocks counties from requiring local waste to be dumped in a county's own local landfill. The decision is significant because some counties have adopted or are planning such laws to guarantee revenues for landfill operations.

The State: Freedman, Hebert: Double down on obesity with double bucks at farmers' markets

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/21/2685538/freedman-hebert-double-down-on.html#storylink=misearch#storylink=cpy>

Darcy Freedman And James Hebert

Two out of three South Carolinians are obese or overweight. Obesity is taking a toll on our state in lives and money. As Gov. Nikki Haley and DHEC Director Catherine Templeton have highlighted, bold and strategic actions are needed to reduce obesity trends.

Post And Courier: State politicians attempt to nullify federal law — again

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

Should South Carolina be able to opt out of the federal law commonly called “Obamacare”? - Nullification in other states Other examples of nullification in the U.S. include: The Colorado Marijuana Legalization Amendment was approved by voters Nov. 6. It legalizes marijuana in the state, even though marijuana possession in the U.S. is a federal crime.

Post And Courier: Only one forum set (so far) in 1st District runoff

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tPR1dx40

For Curtis Bostic, there’s no debate about it: Mark Sanford, Bostic’s GOP opponent in the 1st Congressional District runoff, is far better at a podium. “I think Mark may be the best debator I have ever seen,” Bostic said Thursday. “He presents very well, and I admire his ability in that regard.”

Post And Courier: HICKS COLUMN: Cheap land grows on trees?

Brian Hicks

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

Locals scored a rare victory this week when they stopped a developer from sticking another 462 houses on decreasingly rural Johns Island. It's a tough blow for the land- owners, but they can take solace in one thing: at least they can keep paying peanuts for property taxes. The Wooddale Partnership LLC - which includes County Councilman Vic Rawl as one of several owners - is paying a whopping \$673 a year in property taxes on 470 acres that Charleston County values at about \$3.8 million.

Post And Courier: Boeing to pay \$12.5 million for 320 acres at Charleston airport

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hv2OighD

Both sides have 30 days to back out of the \$39,000-an-acre deal. Boeing has not said what it intends to do with the International Boulevard property, but it has stressed that it doesn’t bank land or intend to sell it for another purpose. The two sides arrived at the price based on an agreement requiring them to split the difference if their own appraisals were within 10 percent.

Post And Courier: Two new charter schools opening in Charleston in August, at least five more interested in 2014 opening

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7QYErhzM

Diette Courrégé

The state will see a nearly 20 percent growth in its number of charter schools in 2013-14, adding 10 more to its roster. That figure likely will expand again, with about 40 groups having signaled their intention to apply to open in 2014-15.

Post And Courier: CEO of Charleston’s Benefitfocus won’t confirm IPO report

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wF4rGTX

The news service Reuters reported late Wednesday that Charleston-based Benefitfocus has hired three banks to launch an initial public offering of its stock later this year. Reuters attributed the information to two unidentified people familiar with the matter.

Associated Press: SC's special education penalty won't continue

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

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina schools chief Mick Zais says congressional action averted the continuation of a \$36 million federal punishment over special education spending.

A clause inserted in a stopgap spending bill given final approval Thursday by the U.S. House repeals the penalty slated to continue perpetually.

Associated Press: Democrat seeks opinion on state plane usage

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

Seanna Adcox

A legislator sought an opinion Thursday whether a Republican House member properly used the state plane when he shuttled conservative commentator Walter Williams to and from a Washington-area airport for a hearing in Columbia.

The State: Chumley Will Not Pay Back State Plane Costs

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pFI4aGAI

Adam Beam

State Rep. Bill Chumley, R-Spartanburg, said Thursday he would not pay back the \$6,390 in taxpayer spending he approved to fly a conservative pundit to Columbia on Wednesday to testify in favor of a bill opposing Obamacare... But legislative Democrats said they plan to propose an amendment to the state's budget that would force Chumley to pay back the money.

Associated Press: Recount scheduled in SC's 1st District race

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

A recount of ballots is scheduled in the GOP primary in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District. But Friday's recount isn't expected to alter the outcome sending former Gov. Mark Sanford and former Charleston County councilman Curtis Bostic into the April 2 Republican runoff.

Associated Press: South Carolina jail fugitive caught in Los Angeles

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=LPvAii2R

An inmate who walked out of a South Carolina jail more than a year ago has been captured near Los Angeles. The U.S. Marshal Service arrested Charles Dewayne Ransom in Northridge, Calif., on Wednesday. Ransom switched armbands with another inmate in the Horry (Oh-REE) County jail in November 2011 and walked away.

Associated Press: Ga. lawmakers OK crackdown on so-called pill mills

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ncV3pqa8

Kate Brumback

As Southern states cracked down on so-called pill mills, Georgia's lax regulation made it a magnet for clinics known for prescribing powerful painkillers to drug dealers and addicts for an illicit high.

Associated Press: Drug maker: No one in SC was harmed in \$327M case

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

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's high court should overturn a penalty of hundreds of millions of dollars over deceptive drug marketing in part because the manufacturer didn't mean to deceive anyone, and no one in the state was hurt, an attorney for a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary argued before justices on Thursday.

Associated Press: Panel advances bill to keep guns from mentally ill

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

Seanna Adcox

A bill designed to prevent residents deemed mentally ill from buying guns advanced Thursday in the House, six weeks after a botched shooting at a Charleston school drew attention to a loophole in reporting. The measure heading to the Judiciary Committee ensures the names of those determined mentally insane by a South Carolina court are put into a federal database for purposes of background checks for gun purchases.

Post And Courier: Police step up presence on I-26 in response to lawmaker concerns

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=v3iAt6FX

Law enforcement has stepped up its presence on Interstate 26 because of a local legislator's concerns about public safety. "I never expected such a fast, prompt response. I've been getting calls from people thanking me for requesting that," said State Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston.

Greenville New: Remove politics from the Guard

Editorial

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130322/OPINION/303220016/Remove-politics-from-Guard>

South Carolina needs to join all the other states in the country in removing conspicuous politics from the election of the state's top military leader. The adjutant general of our state should be a member of the governor's cabinet. This position is too important to be voted on every four years in a process that puts the head of the National Guard raising money, begging for votes and possibly promising favors.

Hyper Local News

Island Packet: Beaufort Air Show canceled due to federal budget cuts

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/22/2688108/beaufort-air-show-canceled-due.html#storylink=cpy>

Casey Conley

For the second time in seven years, the Beaufort Air Show has been canceled, a casualty of federal budget cuts. Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort announced Thursday that the biennial event has been called off because of the possible impact from the \$85-billion, forced federal budget cuts known as sequestration.

Associated Press: SC mom charged after son, 2, crushed by furniture

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FuOh3Xah

Authorities say the mother of a 2-year-old boy has been charged with neglect in his death because she locked him in a bedroom and didn't check on him even after hearing a loud noise from the room.

Associated Press: Horry County opts out of ongoing helicopter battle

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=29gc2qdg

Horry County Council will not get involved in a continuing legal fight over helicopter rides on the Grand Strand. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reports (<http://bit.ly/ZNBZuks>) the council voted Tuesday against pursuing the matter any further.

Associated Press: Inmate leaves Williamsburg federal prison

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

Williamsburg County sheriff's deputies are looking for an inmate who walked away from a federal prison near Salters. Sheriff Michael Johnson says 26-year-old Kevin Eric Campbell apparently walked away from the minimum security camp next to the main prison late Wednesday afternoon.

Post And Courier: Police: Apprehended Summerville bank robber said he had a bomb

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

A man suspected of robbing the First Federal Savings and Loan branch Thursday afternoon was apprehended later inside the Goose Creek Walmart.

Post And Courier: Charlestonian Pollitzer a leader in suffrage movement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=JtUvij4V

When women in the 1st Congressional District went to the polls Tuesday to cast their ballots, chances are that few gave a thought to the fact that women have had the right to vote for less than a century. Fewer still probably know that it was a Charlestonian who helped win that right. - The 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was passed when Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify it in August 1920.

Post And Courier: Charleston airport chairman to investigate contractor incident

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

A whodunit playing out at Charleston International Airport almost wound up in the hands of law enforcement Thursday. At issue is an effort to determine the identities of Charleston County Aviation Authority members who reportedly tried to steer construction work to a specific company as part of the \$200 million redevelopment of the passenger terminal.

National News

Reuters: Gun bill, background checks, head to Senate battle

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/22/us-usa-guns-senate-idUSBRE92K1AR20130322>

Thomas Ferraro

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said on Thursday any gun-control bill that passes his chamber can only be effective if it includes universal background checks, an embattled centerpiece of President Barack Obama's bid to curb gun violence.

New York Times: Once Few, Women Hold More Power in Senate

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/22/us/politics/women-make-new-gains-in-the-senate.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

Jennifer Steinhauer

An hour before her colleagues gathered for their first vote of a new Congress, Senator Kelly Ayotte slipped into an empty Senate chamber to savor the grandeur of her legislative home. As Ms. Ayotte, a freshman Republican from New Hampshire, sat down at the wooden desk where generations of lawmakers from her state had cast their votes, a doorman marched toward her with purpose.

Roll Call: Putting the Heat on Immigration Talks

http://www.rollcall.com/news/putting_the_heat_on_immigration_talks-223373-1.html?pos=hftxt

Humberto Sanchez

A delay in finishing work on a comprehensive immigration overhaul could threaten the recent momentum for Congress to take on the issue. A bipartisan group of eight senators has been working since January on a bill, and they expect to unveil their package the week of April 8.

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