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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Island Packet: Senate budget raises state funding for Beaufort County schools

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/08/3100887/senate-budget-raises-state-funding.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

What once appeared to be a \$700,000 cut in state funding for Beaufort County schools could become an increase of about the same amount, according to the S.C. Senate's budget proposal.

Note: Original estimates were that the district would receive less funding, widely attributed to Gov. Nikki Haley's education initiative, which redistributes money to poorer school districts. The governor and legislators have promised that no district would receive less money if Haley's plan is adopted, but how much money was needed to accomplish that was up for debate.

Greenville News: Data breach report won't be released

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/08/plan-sc-state-financial-troubles-debated/8861013/>

Tim Smith

The full report of what happened in the state's huge data breach in 2012 will remain secret after a budget proposal to force its release failed in the Senate.

Note: Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said the GOP senators' arguments were sufficient. "The Secret Service, SLED and Senators (Harvey) Peeler and Martin said everything that needs to be said," Mayer said. "Senator Sheheen embarrassed himself, and should be more careful when trying to turn serious security issues into political games."

The State: Sheheen, GOP senators trade barbs over hacking

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3435741/sheheen-gop-senators-trade-barbs.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley's Democratic rival called Thursday for the Republican to release details on how a hacker stole millions of taxpayers' information, drawing the ire of state Senate GOP leaders.

Note: "The Secret Service, SLED, and Sens. Peeler and Martin said everything that needs to be said," said Haley spokesman Doug Mayer. "Senator Sheheen embarrassed himself, and should be more careful when trying to turn serious security issues into political games."

Associated Press: Sheheen: People deserve to see full hacking report

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rqx3AKSW

Seanna Adcox

Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen tried Thursday to force Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's administration to release the full report on how millions of taxpayers' personal data was stolen in 2012, saying people deserve to know.

Anderson Independent: Senator: S.C. hacker received \$25,000 ransom

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/08/senator-sc-hacker-received-25000-ransom/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

A state senator said Thursday that he believes federal authorities paid a \$25,000 ransom to the computer hacker who stole the personal data of 6.4 million residents from the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Note: Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said Sheheen "embarrassed himself" by trying to force the governor to release details on the cyber attack. Sheheen "should be more careful when trying to turn serious security issues into political games," Mayer said.

Post and Courier: Legislature proposes S.C. State oversight commission

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140508/PC1603/140509402/1031/legislature-proposes-sc-state-oversight-commission>

Jeremy Borden

The S.C. Senate voted Thursday to form an advisory committee that would have the power to oversee the state's only public historically black college, which faces severe budget woes and issues with its accreditation.

Note: Plans for disbursement of monies would be overseen both by legislators and finally by the Budget and Control Board, an oversight panel comprised of Gov. Nikki Haley, Leatherman and other key officials.

Associated Press: Leatherman: Panel is SC State's best hope

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=H6xBxsID

Seanna Adcox

Senate Finance Chairman Hugh Leatherman says South Carolina State University's best chance of survival comes from a panel of current and former college presidents he put together.

Note: Last week, the Budget and Control Board approved a \$6 million loan to pay its oldest unpaid bills, as recommended by its chair, Gov. Nikki Haley.

WBTW: Gov. Nikki Haley announces Military Spouse Appreciation Day

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25472928/gov-nikki-haley-announces-military-spouse-appreciation-day>

Governor Nikki Haley today joined S.C. Adjutant General, Major General Robert E. Livingston, Jr., Brigadier General Bradley Becker, the Commanding General at Fort Jackson Army Base, and Colonel Mike Metzler of the S.C. Air National Guard in announcing Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Note: "I am the proud wife of a soldier and I know what it's like when your soldier deploys," said Gov. Haley. "Military spouses make sure that our soldiers don't have to worry, so that they can do what they do best, and that's protecting our country and keeping themselves safe. Our job is to always keep pride on our faces, to keep our families safe, and to show the rest of the country that we never mind sacrificing for the work that our soldiers do."

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Associated Press: Biden in SC for fundraiser, commencement address

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=G9WLw3Kg

Meg Kinnard

Vice President Joe Biden is making several stops in South Carolina, an early voting state that will be key in the 2016 elections. On Friday, Biden is delivering a commencement address at the University of South Carolina. Prior to that, the vice president is scheduled to headline a fundraising lunch in downtown Columbia for the South Carolina Democratic Party.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Graham makes campaign stop in Spartanburg

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140508/ARTICLES/140509675/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Graham-makes-campaign-stop-in-Spartanburg>

Jason Spencer

To hear U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham talk about the importance of Republicans and Democrats working together – and, just for good measure, the need for comprehensive immigration reform – one might forget that he's facing six challengers on the right in next month's primary election.

Rock Hill Herald: GOP state education superintendent candidates to debate in Rock Hill

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/09/5948099/gop-state-education-superintendent.html?sp=/100/104/109/#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

Republican candidates running for South Carolina Superintendent of Education will appear at a forum and debate in Rock Hill on Monday. The forum is sponsored by the GPS Conservatives for Action political action committee and the York County Republican Women's Club. It is open to the public and there will be a question-and-answer session.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Solar bill looking brighter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140509/PC1002/140509379/1021/solar-bill-looking-brighter>
Editorial

South Carolina's sunny climate, a magnet for visitors, is close to paying off in a new way. Solar energy, long under-used and under-appreciated here, received a boost Wednesday from the Senate. South Carolina needs such a boost.

The State: Not all of SC's children are all well

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3435198/bolton-not-all-of-scs-children.html#storylink=cpy>
Warren Bolton

Given the controversy swirling around the Department of Social Services in regard to high-profile child deaths, overworked employees and other issues, we — and I mean the taxpayers and citizens of South Carolina — should be asking every day: “And how are the children?”

Greenville News: Butler Derrick was an admired leader

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/05/08/editorial-butler-derrick-admired-leader/8865885/>
Editorial

Butler Derrick surely was an unknown to many people in this area that has high growth and many newcomers. He died Monday at the age of 77, and that was 20 year after he surprised his congressional district and Congress by announcing his retirement from politics at the politically young age of 57.

Legislative Session News:

Times and Democrat: Senate OKs plan to stabilize S.C. State

http://thetandd.com/news/senate-oks-plan-to-stabilize-s-c-state/article_d76a82fe-d72f-11e3-85c2-0019bb2963f4.html

Dale Linder-Altman

A panel of current and former college presidents will help find a way to stabilize South Carolina State University under a plan approved by state senators. The so-called Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee will be responsible for deciding how much money is needed to bail the university out of its financial situation, according to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman.

The State: SC Senate OKs panel to guide SC state bailout

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3435776/sc-senate-oks-panel-to-guide-sc.html#storylink=cpy>
Cassie Cope

The state Senate on Thursday approved creation of an advisory committee of five current and former S.C. college presidents to help guide S.C. State University through its financial turmoil. To get a second state bailout, S.C. State will have to follow the committee's recommendations, senators were told.

Aiken Standard: House committee votes against more MOX funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140509/AIK0101/140509416/1004/house-committee-votes-against-more-mox-funding>

Derrek Asberry

Members of a federal House committee referred to the Savannah River Site's MOX program as a “dead project” before voting to cut \$120 million from the program's proposed budget. On Wednesday night, the House Armed Forces Committee voted on an amendment to redirect the \$120 million intended for MOX in fiscal year 2015 to operations with the United States Air Force.

Post and Courier: Sen. Brad Hutto filibuster delays decision on College of Charleston 'Fun Home' budget cuts; GOP calls book pornography

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140507/PC1610/140509456>

Jeremy Borden

A S.C. Senate Democrat staged a nearly four-hour filibuster to prevent proposed budget cuts to the College of Charleston on Wednesday, as Republican senators sought to punish the school over its summer reading book choice.

Post and Courier: Possible 'Fun Home' compromise in works; incoming C of C president McConnell weighs in

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140508/PC1610/140509435/1177/possible-fun-home-compromise-in-works-incoming-c-of-c-president-mcconnell-weighs-in>

Diane Knich, Jeremy Borden

The state senator who staged an hours-long filibuster this week to prevent budget cuts to the College of Charleston over its summer reading book choice said Thursday a deal is in the works to move beyond the impasse. The school's incoming president, Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell also said he was against the cuts.

Island Packet: Rep. Patrick served court order outside House chamber during session

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/08/3100880/rep-patrick-served-court-order.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Fitz McAden

State Rep. Andy Patrick must appear in court next month to explain why he has not paid all the money he owes to the attorney who represents his estranged wife. Legal papers requiring Patrick, R-Hilton Head Island, to be at a June 23 hearing were delivered on Tuesday during a session of the House of Representatives in the State House.

Associated Press: SC measure allow for replacement of aging seawall

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

Andrew Coffman Smith

A South Carolina House committee has passed a measure that would allow a Georgetown County community to replace its aging seawall without the help of taxpayer money. The committee on Thursday approved by a 17-1 vote the controversial legislation to let Debordieu replace the seawall.

The State: Consensus emerges on SC elections committee

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3434632/consensus-forms-around-mergers.html>

Dawn Hinshaw

Members of a six-man legislative committee signaled Thursday they would be willing to provide the state elections office with some oversight over county offices. But details remain unsettled and the conference committee will meet again soon, said Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee and committee chairman.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Reuters: Republicans shouldn't raise money off Benghazi: U.S. lawmaker

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/07/us-usa-politics-benghazi-idUSBREA4613P20140507>

Richard Cowan

The new head of a congressional panel investigating the 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, criticized on Wednesday some Republicans' use of the deadly incident to raise campaign funds.

Politico: Graham plans push on abortion bill

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/lindsey-graham-abortion-bill-106505.html>

Burgess Everett

The South Carolina Republican is organizing a group of his colleagues to speak in support of a bill that would federally ban abortions after more than 20 weeks of pregnancy, legislation that has the support of 41 Senate Republicans and has already passed the House.

Associated Press: GOP split breaking down, tea party power wanes

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=s5OMetyB

Philip Elliott, Laurie Kellman

It's too early to say the tea party's over. But with a Senate majority in reach, the Republican Party and its allies are using campaign cash, positions of influence and other levers of power to defuse what they consider challenges by weak conservative candidates before the 2014 midterm elections and the 2016 presidential race.

Note: In South Carolina, class of 2010 Rep. Mick Mulvaney opted for a plum seat on the Financial Services Committee over a challenge to the deal-making Sen. Lindsey Graham and his \$7 million campaign war chest.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Immigration: US warns schools against bias

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MG2ign5j

Kimberly Hefling

Despite a 32-year-old court ruling, school districts continue to raise barriers to enrollment for children brought into the U.S. illegally, the Obama administration said Thursday, characterizing reports of hindrances as troubling.

Note: The Education Department said it is investigating 14 schools or districts for possible violations since 2011. They are in Arizona, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia.

Local News:

The State: Richland budget talks begin on austere note; tax hike not recommended

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3435523/richland-budget-talks-begin-on.html#storylink=cpy>

Dawn Hinshaw

Richland County residents would pay a little more for service-related fees but pay the same in property taxes for county operations next year under the administrator's recommended budget. Administrator Tony McDonald outlined his \$151.5 million county general budget Thursday as a prelude to County Council debates continuing through mid-June.

Aiken Standard: No federal or state refunds for debris cleanup allocated yet

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140509/AIK0101/140509388/1004/no-federal-or-state-refunds-for-debris-cleanup-allocated-yet>

Maayan Schechter

To date, no federal or state level reimbursements have been allocated to any organization within the state following Winter Storm Pax, according to S.C. Emergency Management Division officials. The deadline to submit reimbursement applications for ice storm recovery and emergency operations ended today.

The State: Columbia puts conditions on extension of contract to sell Capital City Stadium

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/08/3435545/columbia-puts-conditions-on-extension.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

The developer who wants to buy Capital City Stadium to make way for a mixed-use complex had to up the ante on his earnest money by \$200,000 to get City Council's tentative agreement to a fifth extension on the deal. Bright-Meyers of Atlanta also agreed to five benchmarks, each of which the company must hit or forfeit to the city \$129,000 of the earnest money.

National News:

CNN: RNC moves to control presidential primary debates

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/05/08/rnc-makes-move-to-control-presidential-debates/>

Mark Preston

The Republican National Committee is expected to approve a new penalty Friday that will punish candidates seeking the 2016 GOP presidential nomination if they participate in non-sanctioned primary debates. The penalty is meant to give the national party more control over the presidential nominating process after party leaders watched a nasty, drawn-out primary in 2012 that included 20 major debates.

CNN: Clinton's handling of Boko Haram questioned

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/08/politics/clinton-boko-haram/index.html>

Tom Cohen

Hindsight is 20/20, they say, but some people may need backwards-looking glasses in debating whether the State Department under Hillary Clinton erred two years ago by not designating Boko Haram a terrorist group.

Brian Symmes

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