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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Aiken Standard: MOX 102: A look at agreements between DOE, the state

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140330/AIK0101/140329297/1004/mox-102-a-look-at-agreements-between-doe-the-state>

Derrek Asberry

State and Congressional legislators have been using contractual agreements between the Department of Energy and the state of South Carolina as a line of defense to save the Savannah River Site's MOX facility. That action has been countered by the state of South Carolina – lead by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley – suing DOE on the basis that the Energy Department is breaking contractual obligations.

Florence Morning News: Timmonsville plant now employs 650

http://www.scnow.com/news/progress_2014/article_9db7f0ba-b604-11e3-a6ae-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Gov. Nikki Haley hasn't driven in more than two years, but last June, she hopped into a Honda Pioneer 700-4, fresh off the newly built assembly line, at the Honda of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. and took it for a spin with HSC President Brian Newman.

Note: "We congratulate Honda of South Carolina in their new Honda side-by-side production accomplishment," Haley said. "We are also excited that Honda has chosen to create more jobs in Timmonsville and bring a more than \$27 million investment opportunity to the state of South Carolina. When a world-class company like Honda increases its footprint in the Pee Dee region, it shows that South Carolina is a great place to do business."

Florence Morning News: Sonoco Products

2013 a milestone year

http://www.scnow.com/news/progress_2014/article_b7e3c3a2-b603-11e3-8cfb-001a4bcf6878.html

Bob Sloan

In years to come, officials with Sonoco Products will look back on 2013 as a milestone year in the history of the 114-year-old global packaging company headquartered in Hartsville.

Note: At its dedication in January, Gov. Nikki Haley hailed the boiler as a clear indicator of the global packaging company's commitment to Hartsville and South Carolina. "Sonoco is one of those very rare companies that we can say of them that they take care of those who take care of them," Haley said.

WBTW: Dillon County day provides both health and job advantages for residents

<http://www.wbtw.com/story/25109553/dillon-county-day-provides-both-health-and-job>

Nick Sturdivant

Rows of tables, filled with limitless opportunities. It's something that both Camy Taylor and her daughter, were out to take advantage of. Governor Nikki Haley and The Original Six Foundation reached out to folks in Dillon, to mark Saturday, Dillon County Day.

Note: "So much of what we wanted is for people to be healthy. We want good outcomes. We want jobs. We got to remember that the small rural areas are just as important as the busy cities we have. So we want to focus on all of South Carolina, not just part of South Carolina," explained Gov. Haley.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Sheheen's work as lawyer scrutinized as he courts women voters

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/29/3356853/sheheens-work-as-lawyer-scrutinized.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen's recent focus of winning women voters in his gubernatorial campaign includes

a pitch about strengthening South Carolina's criminal domestic violence laws. As an attorney, however, the Camden Democrat represented at least three men charged with criminal domestic violence of high and aggravated nature since 2001.

Note: "Vince Sheheen has every right to make money as a trial lawyer who puts back on the streets some of the most violent and horrendous criminals in our state – people who have attacked South Carolina's ... women," said Rob Godfrey, a spokesman for Haley's November re-election campaign versus Sheheen. "(M)ost South Carolinians would be shocked to learn that a candidate for governor would choose to do that."

Note: "He's running around the state talking about being tougher on men who beat women, yet he personally made sure that men who attacked women ... spent as little time in jail as possible," Godfrey said, "and he did it for money."

The State: Upstate attorney to oppose Nikki Haley in GOP primary

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/29/3356085/upstate-attorney-to-oppose-nikki.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Gov. Nikki Haley has a primary challenger. Former S.C. Rep. Tom Ervin, a Greenville attorney and radio station owner who was once a Democrat, filed Saturday to run for the Republican nomination against the first-term governor from Lexington. "This is out of nowhere," S.C. GOP political consultant Chip Felkel said.

The State: Graham, SC GOP primary challengers differ sharply on Supreme Court, NSA and budget deal

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/29/3356680/graham-sc-gop-primary-challengers.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's Republican primary challengers say they are stark alternatives to the two-term incumbent from Seneca. Graham is too moderate, too willing to compromise or work with congressional Democrats, they say. But are the policies that the insurgents propose really that different?

Associated Press: Filing deadline for SC elections is Sunday

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8plc0qiP

Bruce Smith

The filing deadline for state and federal candidates running in this year's elections in South Carolina is at hand. Ahead of the noon Sunday deadline, it's already clear that incumbents Gov. Nikki Haley and U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott face primary challengers this year.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Obamacare's costly confusion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC1002/140339944/1021/obamacares-costly-confusion>

Editorial

Monday is the deadline to sign up for insurance on www.HealthCare.gov. Or is it? Confusion persists over which elements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are going into effect - and when. For instance, the Obama administration announced on Tuesday night that it would extend that previously "firm" March 31 deadline for two to three weeks.

Greenville News: Pass a bill that funds road upkeep

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140330/OPINION01/303300011/Editorial-Pass-bill-funds-road-upkeep>

Editorial

Even as the clock begins winding down on the current legislative session a small group of state legislators are at least trying to put together an array of funding proposals that will direct more money to one of the most crucial problems facing South Carolina: highway funding.

Rock Hill Herald: Emma's Law needed to fight DUI in S.C.

[http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/29/5816256/emmas-law-needed-to-fight-dui.html?](http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/29/5816256/emmas-law-needed-to-fight-dui.html?sp=/100/105/121/#storylink=cpy)

[sp=/100/105/121/#storylink=cpy](http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/29/5816256/emmas-law-needed-to-fight-dui.html?sp=/100/105/121/#storylink=cpy)

Editorial

To move Emma's Law, a bill that would require many first-time DUI offenders to install ignition interlock devices in their cars, through the powerful S.C. House Judiciary Committee, proponents had to compromise on the blood-alcohol level. If that is enough to gain the support of a majority of House members, it was worth it.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Failure to protect*State House delays bill needed to reduce domestic violence*<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140330/OPINION/403301016/1128?Title=Failure-to-protect>

Editorial

South Carolina leads the nation in domestic violence, and time is running out for lawmakers to strengthen state law. When the Violence Policy Center issued its annual report last fall, many South Carolinians were horrified to find the Palmetto State was No. 1 in the rate of women killed by men, up from No. 2 the previous year.

Florence Morning News: Forecast for solar power looks sunnyhttp://www.snow.com/opinion/article_ef52af74-b77f-11e3-86a6-0017a43b2370.html

Editorial

President Jimmy Carter first shined the light on solar panels for many Americans. In 1977, he installed them on the White House and provided incentives for solar energy companies. A year later, solar panels popped up on calculators, prompting legions of children to cover their fingers over the panels to magically turn on and off their electronic abacuses.

Post and Courier: Pain persists with payday loans<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC1002/140339939/1021/pain-persists-with-payday-loans>

Editorial

An analysis of 12 million payday loans reveals troubling, but not surprising, trends in the lucrative industry. For example, about half of all payday loans are made to people who extend the loans so many times that they end up paying more in fees than the original amount they borrowed.

Post and Courier: New local campus would be a waste of taxpayer money<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC1002/140339945/1021/>

Editorial

The headline story in the March 24 Post and Courier states that Mount Pleasant Town Council is considering the sponsorship of a new college satellite campus that would cost Mount Pleasant taxpayers \$1.5 million. The question is: "Why should Mount Pleasant taxpayers pay for this endeavor when this educational opportunity and others already exist in the Lowcountry?"

The State: Municipal leaders in Lexington, Richland counties must clear the air and start governing<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/30/3354067/bolton-municipal-leaders-in-lexington.html#storylink=cpy>

Warren Bolton

FORGET ABOUT Mr. Smith going to Washington. The way some local elected officials in Lexington and Richland counties have been behaving, it appears Washington has gotten into Councilman Smith. The conflict-oriented, polarized, in compliant temperament that has gripped our national — and, yes, our state — politics has flowed down to the local level and is clogging up the governing process.

Times and Democrat: One way or the other, gambling laws need updatehttp://thetandd.com/news/opinion/one-way-or-the-other-gambling-laws-need-update/article_5c3ccb8c-b790-11e3-90c5-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Bridge and poker games; OUR OPINION: Forcing the matter into court may be best way to get necessary results. South Carolina's lawmakers are trying to bring South Carolina's gambling laws into the modern age, but the going is slow.

Legislative Session News:**Post and Courier:** The politics behind College of Charleston's search for a new leader<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC16/140339934/1006/c-of-c-chair-mcconnell-choice-was-not-a-fix>

Diane Knich, Jeremy Borden

To hear some students and faculty members at the College of Charleston tell it, the fix was in. The college's search process that ended March 22 in the selection of Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as the school's next president was rife with speculation and politicking.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: College savings plans debated

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140330/NEWS/303300019/College-savings-plans-debated>

Tim Smith

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis says college savings plans overseen by his office are booming, with sales up 43 percent last December over the year before. Loftis said the plans aren't only successful but a source of joy for him. "It's something I believe in," he told The Greenville News.

Associated Press: High-tech maps show ocean floor off SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0ehaz6dg

Bruce Smith

Ask most any ocean fisherman and he will tell you he has a favorite offshore fishing spot. Now researchers from the College of Charleston using state-of-the-art mapping equipment are providing insight into what makes such spots off the South Carolina coast so attractive to fish like snapper and grouper and, in turn, to the fishermen who catch them.

Aiken Standard: Attorneys request tax, DSS documents in Thomas suit

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140330/AIK0101/140329265/1004/attorneys-request-tax-dss-documents-in-thomas-suit>

Teddy Kulmala

Plaintiff and defense attorneys in the wrongful death suit filed by the estate of Lukisha Thomas recently filed motions requesting documents pertaining to the case. Thomas died March 30, 2013, after being struck by a vehicle while walking on the sidewalk of York Street with her boyfriend, Ray Charles Wooden Jr., and their 2-year-old son.

Times and Democrat: Insured still bear costs as S.C. rejects health reform

http://thetandd.com/news/insured-still-bear-costs-as-s-c-rejects-health-reform/article_74eb35d8-b7bd-11e3-8c97-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

While it's too early to tell how health care reform will affect the Regional Medical Center, the failure of the state to accept Medicaid expansion will continue to be felt, hospital President and CEO Tom Dandridge says.

Post and Courier: Charleston's ABC television station will factor into FCC meeting this week

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140330/PC05/140339989/1177/charlestons-abc-television-station-will-factor-into-fcc-meeting-this-week>

John McDermott

Delayed twice now, the proposed sale of a local TV broadcaster faces a big test this week. Regulators are deciding whether to clamp down on a loophole that's allowed companies to skirt government rules and acquire multiple stations in one market. It's a safe bet that Sinclair Broadcast Group will be watching the action closely.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greer enjoying home construction boom

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140330/NEWS/303300021/Greer-enjoying-home-construction-boom?nclick_check=1

Cheryl P. Allen

As the housing market continues to bounce back, Greer is getting its share of new residential development in 2014. This year, construction is underway after the city approved zoning for nearly 700 lots in 2013, according to Glenn Pace, the planning and zoning coordinator for the city.

Florence Morning News: NESA working to make agribusiness continue growth in the Pee Dee

http://www.scnow.com/living/food/article_e8960c6e-b787-11e3-aa88-0017a43b2370.html

John D. Russell

Above all else, the Pee Dee is still farming country, and the Northeastern Strategic Alliance (NESA) is taking steps to make agribusiness grow in its nine-county region. Agribusiness in the Pee Dee, which is already responsible for annual sales of more than \$4 billion and 12,600 jobs in the region, accounts for more than 20 percent of the state's total agricultural receipts, according to the South Carolina Statistical Abstract.

Florence Morning News: It will be a bountiful year

http://www.scnow.com/news/progress_2014/article_4ca6f4be-b609-11e3-96d7-001a4bcf6878.html

Joe King

Florence County Economic Development Partnership's objective is to recruit and develop jobs and new investments as well as raise the standard of living for every citizen of Florence County. We also put forth equal effort in growing what we already have through our existing industry and business retention program.

Post and Courier: Berkeley County leads state in outside legal spending by school districts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140329/PC16/140329269/1177/berkeley-county-leads-state-in-outside-legal-spending-by-school-districts>

Brenda Rindge

Saying they were short on cash, Berkeley County school officials last August asked residents to open their wallets to help the district pay for crayons, notebook paper and other supplies the district couldn't afford due to budget shortfalls. The community rallied and chipped in more than \$45,000 to help with the "Stuff the Bus" campaign.

National News:

Associated Press: Health law legacy eludes Obama as changes sink in

http://www.scnow.com/news/national/article_ed501e6e-b74d-11e3-8790-001a4bcf6878.html

Ricardo Alonzo-Zaldivar

As a roller-coaster sign-up season winds down, President Barack Obama's health care law has indeed managed to change the country. Americans are unlikely to go back to a time when people with medical problems could be denied coverage. But Obama's overhaul needs major work of its own if it is to go down in history as a legacy achievement like Medicare or Social Security.

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