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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina officials take sides in refugee debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC1603/151129588>

Cynthia Roldan

South Carolina's Democratic and Republican lawmakers are taking sides in the debate over Syrian refugees, a fight that, as yet, has no battleground in the state. Calls to keep Syrian refugees from coming into the United States have increased since the terrorist attacks in Paris, with presidential candidates and governors branding them potential terrorists and questioning the federal government's screening.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley sought to navigate a tightrope on the issue, initially saying the issue was inadequate vetting of refugees rather than their Muslim faith. Eventually, she joined other Republican lawmakers in saying the refugees should not be resettled in South Carolina because of the risk to public safety.

Associated Press: 8 weeks after floods: Roads getting fixed, mosquitoes dying

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

Jeffrey Collins

The Thanksgiving weekend marks eight weeks since historic rainfall flooded parts of South Carolina. Many things are returning to normal after up to 2 feet of rain fell in areas from Columbia to the coast from Oct. 2 to 5. Nearly 90 percent of the roads closed at the height of the storm are back open.

Note: But many questions remain. An official damage estimate has not been released, and until that figure is known, Gov. Nikki Haley and many state lawmakers say it will be impossible to commit to an exact plan on how to pay for the flood. The deadline to apply for federal assistance is Dec. 4.

Post and Courier: Turnover on state Supreme Court isn't expected to overturn rulings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC1603/151129723>

Maya T. Prabhu

The retirement of two South Carolina Supreme Court justices by the end of next year isn't expected to result in immediate or drastic changes in its rulings, primarily because of the importance of legal precedent. "The law stands on previous decisions," said Bob Bockman, University of South Carolina School of Law professor.

Note: That likely will disappoint Gov. Nikki Haley and legislative leaders who have criticized the state's high court for overstepping its authority on the 22-year-old Abbeville lawsuit.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Time ripe to eliminate state income tax, senators said

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC1603/151129633>

Cynthia Roldan

Two state lawmakers believe 2016 is ripe for eliminating South Carolina's income tax. A recent study by the National Center for Policy Analysis revealed that income tax reform efforts by North Carolina's governor and General Assembly have made the state more competitive with South Carolina.

Note: But they also supported Gov. Nikki Haley's call last session for coupling a phased in 10 cents a gallon gas-tax increase with a 2 percent reduction in the income tax. But they want to take it further by eliminating the income tax.

Greenville News: Lawmaker wants better tracking of disturbing-school offenses

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/11/28/lawmaker-wants-better-tracking-disturbing-school-offenses/76294576/>

Rick Brundrett

A school resource officer's handling of an incident in a Richland County classroom caught on video that went viral has put heightened focus on the offense of disturbing schools and whether South Carolina authorities are using it indiscriminately to criminalize misbehavior in the classroom.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Why some SC Democrats are not backing front-runner Clinton

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article47007095.html>

Jamie Self

Inez Tenenbaum got a call from the Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton a few weeks ago. "We had a very nice talk about issues important to her and to me," said Tenenbaum, a former Democratic S. C. superintendent of education and Obama administration official, and a supporter of a potential Vice President Joe Biden presidential bid until he decided not to run.

Anderson Independent: Rick Santorum hands out Chick-fil-A in Anderson

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/rick-santorum-hands-out-chick-fil-a-25a43782-4cd3-2ee7-e053-0100007f0d1b-357413661.html>

Mike Ellis

Presidential candidate Rick Santorum popped his head out of the drive-thru window Saturday at the Chick-fil-A on Clemson Boulevard in Anderson. "You've got to have long arms to do this," said the former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania. Santorum handed out drinks and food Saturday at both Chick-fil-A's in Anderson.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Florence Morning News: Community needs to help reduce domestic violence

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_60d7c802-9625-11e5-8d91-e30bf5351883.html

Editorial

Domestic violence is a pervasive problem in South Carolina. It didn't become a big problem overnight. Meaningful solutions won't come overnight, either. It's a criminal problem, but the answers can't come exclusively from lawmakers and law enforcement. It's a cultural problem. Solutions must come from communities.

Note: The new law, signed by Gov. Nikki Haley, will impose a lifetime gun ban on the worst abusers and an automatic three- or 10-year ban in other cases. Haley also appointed a domestic violence task force that looked at the problem from several angles.

Greenville News: State needs a good road funding plan

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/11/29/state-needs-good-road-funding-plan/76271798/>

J. Richards Todd

American conservatives know that improving their economies and standards of living means investing in their roads. Icons like Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Carroll Campbell understood it. This generation's leaders are finally acting. Tennessee Republican Gov. Bill Haslam is conducting Town Hall events, laying out how long it will be for road improvements to get done if the state doesn't increase funding.

Note: Our governor, Nikki Haley, has a similar approach; a fuel tax increase, coupled with a more-than-off-setting cut in the state's income tax. South Carolina's Republican-led legislature is also leaning towards a swap, fearing a "naked tax increase."

Post and Courier: Offshore wind energy worth a spin

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC1002/151129348>

Editorial

By now, every coastal municipality and the three coastal congressional representatives have rightly voiced opposition to drilling for oil and natural gas off the state's coast. Fortunately, a much cleaner energy alternative is showing offshore potential. This month, the federal government asked businesses to submit proposals for wind farm leases off the South Carolina coast.

Aiken Standard: State needs to impose MOX fines

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151129/AIK0201/151129413/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Promises were not meant to be broken which is why the state of South Carolina, in 30 days, should impose penalties of \$1 million a day for missed milestones at the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. The facility is a key part of the MOX project – the nation's agreed upon answer to meeting its pact with Russia by disposing of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: New law limiting police isn't answer

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20151129/OPINION/151129780/1128?Title=New-law-limiting-police-isn-t-answer>

Editorial

Police should be trained not to shoot into moving cars, but the state shouldn't pass a law tying the hands of law enforcement officers. Upstate residents have seen plenty of this type of shooting recently. Delvin Tyrell Simmons, 20, was killed by a campus police officer at Spartanburg Methodist College who was responding to a report of vehicle break-ins.

Island Packet: Sales tax for Beaufort County schools a tone-deaf proposal

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article47000500.html>

Editorial

The Beaufort County school board and its superintendent have begun discussing a plan for a sales-tax increase for school construction. The question of a 1 percent increase could be placed on the November 2016 ballot. It would raise an estimated \$480 million over 15 years.

Post and Courier: The rising danger of 'The Donald'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC1002/151129347>

Editorial

The Donald Trump Show goes on ... and on ... and on. And while the bragging billionaire keeps drawing a presidential-campaign crowd, he also continues to deliver shallow policy proposals and controversial comments that would be heavy burdens in a general-election campaign.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

The State: The Buzz: How much is the SC congressional delegation worth?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article47007315.html>

Andrew Shain

Your S.C. congressional delegation is worth a grand total of \$14.2 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. The members' net worth ranges from \$167,500 to \$4.5 million. Who is worth the most? U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-Charleston, at \$4.5 million.

S.C. State University employees getting their bonus: S.C. State University employees are getting their \$800 bonus Friday. The Buzz looked into when S.C. State employees would get their bonus, after a concerned employee asked about the holdup.

No terrorist training camp in York County: U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney went to York County's Holy Islamville Tuesday to investigate rumors of an alleged "terrorist training camp." The Indian Land Republican said he's heard rumors for years about the Muslim community, located just outside of York

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Mount Pleasant to weigh letting the county take lead in S.C. Highway 41 widening

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC16/151129392>

Robert Behre

The town might hand over widening S.C. Highway 41 to Charleston County, but it also might start its own smaller project soon to ease traffic jams there. Earlier this year, Mayor Linda Page said widening of the highway from two to four lanes was the town's top priority to put before state lawmakers.

Post and Courier: Why South Carolina banks lost money last quarter

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151129/PC05/151129409>

John McDermott

The South Carolina banking business has been on better footing for a few years now. Profits are up and bad loans are down, for the most part. But not entirely across the board, as demonstrated in the latest quarterly earnings roundup from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Island Packet: PRT: Hunting Island not going away 'if we can help it'

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article46940655.html>

David Lauderdale

Hunting Island has always been a crown jewel for Beaufort County, and the state of South Carolina. But it has always had a chronic problem: erosion. The problem persists today, threatening the future of the popular spot. The story is as old as its icon, the Hunting Island Lighthouse.

Post and Courier: State takes aim at smoking, cancer with cigarette tax revenue

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151128/PC16/151129451>

Prentiss Findlay

The number of South Carolinians seeking help kicking a tobacco habit has skyrocketed as the state focuses more science muscle on treatments for smoking-related cancer. Average daily calls to the state Tobacco Quitline are up more than six-fold over last year including a record-breaking 4,000-plus inquiries in January, according to Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Jim Beasley.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Planned Parenthood suspect's ex-wife: 'We're living it just as everyone else is'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151128/PC1603/151129356>

Christina Elmore, Melissa Boughton

The Charleston native accused of opening fire inside a Colorado Planned Parenthood had a troubled history with his ex-wife and former neighbors in the Lowcountry. Robert Lewis Dear's ex-wife in Goose Creek, Pamela Ross, hasn't seen Dear in years following a divorce around 2000.

National News:

Associated Press: Trump goes after GOP rivals Rubio, Bush in their home state

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0DN8dj73

Sergio Bustos

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump bragged about his high standing in the polls, slammed super political action committees and dismissed rivals Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush in a campaign stop Saturday in their home state of Florida.

Associated Press: Official says gunman made 'no more baby parts' comment

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

Said Gurman

The man who police say staged a deadly shooting attack on a Planned Parenthood clinic that offers abortion services said "no more baby parts" after his arrest, a law enforcement official said Saturday. The official could not elaborate about the comment by the 57-year-old suspect, Robert Lewis Dear.

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