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S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: The Jenny Horne liar, liar pants on fire law

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC1603/151209716>

Schuyler Kropf

In what could be considered South Carolina's version of the Stolen Valor Act., a staunch defender of the Confederate flag has prefiled a bill for the coming legislative session that would bar lawmakers from making unsubstantiated claims of illustrious Civil War ancestry.

Robert Ford comeback: Six months after he was sentenced to probation for misdemeanor ethics violations, former Charleston state senator Robert Ford is poised to run for his old seat. Ford, a Democrat, recently sent out Christmas cards announcing "I am running for the state Senate to complete what I started as your senator."

Dems at the Gaillard: Signs are pointing to the televised Democratic presidential debate slated for Charleston on Jan. 17 being held at the new Gaillard Center downtown. An announcement is expected in the coming days.

Post and Courier: Gun control, refugees, flood relief proposals await lawmakers in January session

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC1603/151209722>

Cynthia Roldan

Sweeping gun-control measures, flood relief and obstacles to resettling refugees in the state are among more than 150 proposed laws that will be waiting for lawmakers when the Legislature reconvenes in January. And those are in addition to the bills left over from the first year of the two-year session that began in 2015. The deadline to pre-file a bill for the upcoming session is Thursday.

Note: In October, Gov. Nikki Haley suspended Dorchester's Coroner Chris Nisbet after he was indicted on a misconduct charge in a racially charged confrontation with a black neighbor.

Greenville News: Bill would give locals ability to change names of historical monuments

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/12/05/bill-would-give-locals-ability-change-names-historical-monuments/76738820/>

Nathaniel Cary

State Sen. Darrell Jackson of Columbia has pre-filed legislation that would give local governments, school districts and universities the ability to rename or change historical buildings and monuments in their jurisdiction.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: O'Malley: \$5.3M Confederate flag proposal 'appalling waste' of tax dollars

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151205/PC16/151209591>

Christina Elmore

A proposal to spend \$5.3 million to erect a museum display for the Confederate battle flag removed from the Statehouse grounds would be an "appalling waste of public dollars," Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley said Saturday during a town hall meeting in Charleston. "I'm sure there are museums existing already where a space could be found," O'Malley said in response to a question from the audience.

CNN: Republicans hope to win among millennials despite their liberal leanings

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/05/politics/millennial-voters-2016-election/>

Eugene Scott

In the next presidential election, Republican leaders are hoping to win among young voters -- something they haven't done since 1988, before many of today's young voters were born. But winning over the current

crop of young adults -- millennials -- won't be easy. They are more liberal than their parents, even when they identify as Republican.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Aiken Standard: Corley perverts the Christmas season with hateful message

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151206/AIK0201/151209716/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

In the season of peace, love and light, South Carolina House Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, has sunk to a new low with a divisive Christmas card to his GOP colleagues in the General Assembly. Instead of reconciliation and good cheer, Corley chose to craft a holiday message dripping with venom directed at those who supported removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in July.

Post and Courier: Another Gitmo reality check

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC1002/151209619>

Editorial

President Barack Obama has repeatedly stated his resolve to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and transfer the enemy combatants held there to the United States. Fortunately, though, he has been just as repeatedly stymied from achieving that misguided goal, which he set even before winning the nation's highest office.

Post and Courier: Take hard look at state gun laws

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC1002/151209620>

Editorial

When South Carolina lawmakers return to the Statehouse in January, they will have at least 10 gun control bills to consider. All of them deserve a serious look. It was by coincidence that the first pre-filing day for the S.C. Legislature fell less than 24 hours after the Wednesday terrorist attack in San Bernardino, Calif., that killed 14 and wounded more than 20.

Post and Courier: Misplaced priorities, misplaced outrage

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC16/151209723>

Brian Hicks

This is what's wrong with state government in one sentence: The Legislature refuses to follow a state Supreme Court order to come up with a plan to fund education adequately in the next six months, but imposes a six-month deadline for plans to display a Confederate flag.

The State: The coming assault on judicial integrity in SC

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/article48186810.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

EVERY TIME I hear a presidential candidate attack the Supreme Court for its decision on some culture-war issue, I think about how lucky we've been in south Carolina. Oh, there's plenty wrong with the way we pick our judges. There's the fact that the governor is shut out of the process, which should offend anyone who believes in checks and balances.

Greenville News: Police not schools' primary discipline tool

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/12/06/police-not-schools-primary-discipline-tool/76725376/>

Editorial

We put our children in school to learn. So it should be troubling to parents -- and all South Carolinians -- that in the past five years there were 8,552 students referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice for so-called "disturbing school" offenses.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Economists: South Carolina finally back from Great Recession

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MO2y3unb

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina's economy is humming. The unemployment rate is at an eight-year low and lawmakers will open next January's session trying to figure out how to spend an additional \$1.2 billion in projected tax

revenue. Some of the recovery from the Great Recession was expected as part of a typical economic cycle.

The State: Flood led to discovery of unknown dams in Columbia area <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article48217965.html>

Tim Flach

More dams crumbled and broke in the Columbia area than many people realized after historic October floods caused billions of dollars in property damage. Since the Oct. 4 storm, engineers and public works employees have found at least 23 broke dams in Richland and Lexington counties that had not previously been identified by state regulators as having failed

The State: Volunteer work and a new flood recovery mission put the Shwedo family back on the front lines <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article48243770.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Over 32 years as an Army wife, Beth Shwedo learned to adapt to her husband's long hours and absences. Col. Kevin Shwedo would leave for a month or two on military missions and in the days before cellphones or Skype, there would be little, if any, contact between them.

Note: But two weeks after the Oct. 4 flooding, Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Kevin Shwedo indefinitely as South Carolina's flood recovery coordinator, a position created to address the state's long-term needs.

The State: Canadian firm considers Richland County site for aluminum foundry

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article48185225.html>

Sammy Fretwell

A Canadian corporation is considering development of a 300-job aluminum foundry and automotive components plant near Blythewood off Interstate 77. Linamar Inc., headquartered near Toronto, also would acquire the existing Pure Power Technologies plant in Richland County as part of the plan to establish the foundry nearby, Linamar chief operating officer Jim Jarrell said Friday.

Post and Courier: This year's income will determine college student aid in 2017, following change

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151206/PC05/151209806>

David Slade

An important and positive change has been made to the way families will submit federal financial aid applications for their college-bound children. However, for those with children who are currently juniors in high school, that change could require some unexpected financial planning right now — this month.

Greenville News: The daunting road back

Hundreds Of Addicts Are Put On Waiting Lists For Treatment As Heroin Use And Overdoses Soar In South Carolina

<http://goo.gl/qH7aDC>

Anna Lee

Heroin drove Katy Austin to a place she had never imaged. In the depths of her addiction, she spent all of her income on drugs and stole her sister's identity. She shot up whatever she could find — cocaine, meth, pain pills, bath salts. She cashed out her student loans and blew through \$5,000 in a week. She couldn't keep a job. She stopped paying rent.

Local News:

Post and Courier: 'Aggressive' budgeting, 'festering' payroll issues may have caused CCSD financial disaster

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151205/PC16/151209699>

Paul Bowers

When it comes to the recently discovered \$18 million budget shortfall in the Charleston County School District, school board members and an external auditor are diving into the ledgers to answer a weighty question: Where does the buck stop? On the one hand, initial reports indicate that the district's financial staff vastly overestimated revenues and underestimated budget needs in creating the budget for the 2014-2015 school year.

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