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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC House approves \$24 billion state spending plan

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3320168/state-house-house-approves-24.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The S.C. House gave a significant approval for next year's \$24 billion spending plan at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday after two long days of talks and votes. Representatives come back at 10 a.m. Wednesday for a final vote that should take less than two hours before sending the budget to the Senate.

Note: The spending proposal includes a 1.5 percent pay raise for state employees, 31 new State Law Enforcement Division agents and at least \$65 million for an education initiative backed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

Associated Press: SC House gives key approval to \$7B spending plan

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=741WHUwO

Seanna Adcox

Republicans say K-12 public schools are a big winner in the House budget plan approved late Tuesday, but Democrats criticized the plan as still not meeting the state's obligation to education. The House voted 115-2 in favor of a \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes and 105-4 on a separate bill that spends \$117 million from this year's rainy-day fund.

Note: Although the formulas remain, the House did adopt Gov. Nikki Haley's budget recommendations intended to simplify them and provide more to certain students.

Index Journal: Gov. Nikki Haley addresses members of Greenwood Rotary

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/TOUTING-PROGRESS/4/40/24245>

Chris Trainor

Economic development and job creation have been key initiatives for Gov. Nikki Haley during her time in office. The governor touched on those subjects and much more Tuesday afternoon in Greenwood, as she was the guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Greenwood's meeting at American Legion Post 20 on Calhoun Avenue.

Note: "In 2011, when we started, unemployment was at 10.8 percent and got up to 11.1 percent," Haley said. "You made it very clear to me that jobs were a priority. So, that's what we did in South Carolina is jobs, jobs, jobs. We knew that in order for us to bring jobs to South Carolina we had to take care of the businesses we already had first, make sure that we had a strong business climate, make sure that we were really focused on how they were spending their dollar, making their dollar and how South Carolina was a part of that."

Aiken Standard: Congressmen: DOE plans to stop work at MOX facility

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140312/AIK0101/140319869/1004/congressmen-doe-plans-to-stop-work-at-mox-facility>

Derrek Asberry

Members of the South Carolina congressional delegation said the Department of Energy is already planning to stop work at the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site. In a March 7 letter to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, U. S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.; and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., reported information about the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility in Aiken County, known as MOX.

Note: Haley is speaking with S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson about the issue, said Doug Mayer, Haley's spokesperson.

Note: "We are currently working with the attorney general's office and exploring any and all legal options in regard to this issue," Mayer said. "The governor has been actively engaged with this situation from the start and is committed to finding a solution – whether inside of a courtroom or not."

Anderson Independent: S.C. House passes \$24 billion state budget

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/11/sc-house-passes-24-billion-state-budget/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

The South Carolina House of Representatives passed a \$24 billion state budget Tuesday night. The budget, which includes \$6.9 billion in state appropriations, received preliminary approval 115-2 following two days of debate. After a final vote Wednesday, the spending plan will move to the state Senate for consideration.

Note: "Whether it's rising health care costs or not being able to keep your doctor, the past months have proven that Obamacare is wrong for our country and for our state and Governor Haley's decision to oppose it was the right one, and she stands by it," Haley spokesman Doug Mayer said. "The rest is just a distraction."

Associated Press: House votes to put DJJ in charge of special school

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yfPt8yMM

Seanna Adcox

The state Department of Juvenile Justice would take charge of a public residential school for students with behavior problems, under a budget measure approved Tuesday by the South Carolina House. The House voted to give administrative oversight of John de la Howe School in McCormick to the Cabinet agency. The one-year takeover becomes part of the House budget plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Note: "This type of intervention is necessary in order for these children to receive the services they need and to make it possible for the John de la Howe School to regain the respect it once so richly deserved," Haley wrote in the letter dated last Wednesday.

Index Journal: State House OKs DJJ control

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/State-House-OKs-DJJ-control/4/40/24241>

Kate Hruby

The state House of Representatives voted Tuesday to approve placing the John de la Howe School under the purview of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Gov. Nikki Haley recommended the placement in her proposed executive budget for fiscal year 2014-15. Pending approval by the state Senate, the administrative change will take place July 1, when the fiscal year begins.

Note: "This is a step in the right direction to help the kids at John de la Howe," Haley said Tuesday while in Greenwood for a speaking engagement.

Aiken Standard: New law allows digital proof of insurance in traffic stops

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140312/AIK0102/140319868/new-law-allows-digital-proof-of-insurance-in-traffic-stops>

Teddy Kulmala

A new law in South Carolina makes it possible for motorists to use their smartphones to show proof of insurance during law enforcement traffic stops. The law took effect last week when Gov. Nikki Haley signed House Bill 3623 into law. The House unanimously approved the bill last April, and the Senate unanimously approved it last month.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

The State: Vincent Sheheen launches 'Women's Agenda'

http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/12/3320614/morning-buzz.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_destination=buzzatthestate

Andrew Shain, Jamie Self

Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheheen has started a statewide tour trying to woo women voters. Sheheen is promising to push for equal pay, reductions in violence against women and more women-owned small businesses, his campaign said Wednesday. He also pledges to increase the number of women on college boards and other leadership jobs statewide.

Anderson Independent: Anderson tea party founder running for S.C. House District 8 seat

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/mar/11/anderson-tea-party-founder-running-for-sc-house/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

Anderson tea party founder Jonathon Hill says he will run as a Republican for the South Carolina House of Representatives District 8 seat now held by Don Bowen. Hill is a 29-year-old computer programmer from Townville. Besides organizing the Anderson tea party in 2009, he has served as a delegate to the last two

South Carolina GOP conventions.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Index Journal: Governor delivers some good news

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Governor-delivers-some-good-news/8/154/24240>

Editorial

It is an election year, so naturally Gov. Nikki Haley was upbeat as she addressed members of the Rotary Club of Greenwood on Tuesday, but there is much to be upbeat about in the state lately. Unemployment figures are hardly where any of us wants them to be, but it is true that during Haley's term as governor the state has gone from double-digit unemployment to its current 6.6 percent — a rate that bests the national average today.

Post and Courier: Toward a flood insurance fix

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1002/140319924/toward-a-flood-insurance-fix>

Editorial

Homeowners who need federal flood insurance can breathe easier. Following a tidal wave of complaints about enormous cost increases for many coastal homeowners' insurance plans, the House of Representatives rushed a rescue program to approval last week.

Aiken Standard: Immigration change the right call for S.C.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140312/AIK0201/140319887/1018/AIK02/editorial-immigration-change-the-right-call-for-sc>

Editorial

Scrapping the “show me your papers” provision from South Carolina’s immigration law doesn’t mean it’s been defanged. It’s a smart move that lessens the possibility for abuse and intimidation. The shift is the result of South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson agreeing to settle a suit brought by a coalition of civil-rights groups against the state’s 2011 immigration law.

Greenville News: Removing plutonium is a priority

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140312/OPINION01/303120005/Editorial-Removing-plutonium-priority>

Editorial

Once again, the Obama administration has presented a federal budget request that would in effect kill a nuclear fuel reprocessing project at the Savannah River Site that has long been the hope for SRS to be rid of weapons-grade nuclear material that was brought to the site near Aiken specifically to be turned into fuel for nuclear power plants.

The State: Richland legislators must reset election board

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3319681/scoppe-richland-legislators-must.html>

Cindi Scoppe

Richland County legislators are trying to make sure everyone knows about a Thursday deadline that they created for people to apply for membership on an election board that has no statutory authority to exist. Meanwhile they’re ignoring a Saturday deadline set by law to fill out a voter registration board that does not currently exist but by law is supposed to.

Aiken Standard (Guest Column): Set the record straight

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140312/AIK02/140319884/1018/AIK02/column-set-the-record-straight>

Mick Zais

The assertion made in the Aiken Standard – “New superintendent should lead reforms” on Jan. 28 that substantial improvement in the education system in South Carolina has not occurred during my time as state superintendent is simply wrong. While there is much work to be done, we have made much progress. During my tenure, we have expanded school choice by increasing funding to public charter schools.

Post and Courier: Misrepresenting McConnell's record

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140312/PC1002/140319833/1021/misrepresenting-mcconnells-record>

Editorial

Reasonable people can disagree over who's the best candidate among the three finalists for the College of Charleston presidency. But to suggest that Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell should be pre-empted from consideration because of his record on race and heritage issues is to badly misrepresent that record.

Legislative Session News:

Post and Courier: S.C. House gives key approval to \$7B spending plan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1610/140319849/1177/sc-house-gives-key-approval-to-7b-spending-plan>

Cynthia Roldan

Democrats took another run at several contentious issues during Tuesday's round of votes on the state budget, including fully funding per student costs and the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans say K-12 public schools are a big winner in the House budget plan, but Democrats say the plan still doesn't meet the state's obligation to education.

Post and Courier: S.C. panel debates bill to increase sentences for those who commit crimes while out on bond

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC1603/140319832/1031/sc-panel-debates-bill-to-increase-sentences-for-those-who-commit-crimes-while-out-on-bond>

Jeremy Borden

An S.C. Senate panel moved along a proposed bill Tuesday that would give prosecutors and judges the ability to push for increased sentences for people who commit crimes while out on bond. While the measure, S. 857, was cleared for further debate by the Senate Judiciary Committee, one senator placed a procedural hurdle on it that could doom it for the year.

Associated Press: SC House approves studying lawmakers' pay

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yIUi8zcO

The House has agreed to look into a lawmaker's contention that statewide officers in South Carolina are not paid enough. House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford said Tuesday that lawmakers' compensation prevents many people from seeking office. The Columbia Democrat said he didn't speak to any statewide officer about his request. Republicans occupy all nine constitutional offices.

The State: House approves pay study for constitutional officers

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3320093/state-house-house-approves-pay.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The House approved a study on the pay of state constitutional officers, including the governor, treasurer and education superintendent. House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, said he sponsored the budget amendment after seeing the pay for the state attorney general. S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson earns \$92,007 -- making him the 11th-highest paid state worker with the last name Wilson.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Greenville News: Gowdy bill seeks congressional power to sue president

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140312/NEWS03/303120013/Gowdy-bill-seeks-congressional-power-sue-president>

Mary Orndorff Troyan

Congress could more easily sue the president under legislation likely to pass the Republican-led House today. Democrats dismiss the tactic as a partisan charade that the Senate will simply ignore, but a lead Republican sponsor of the idea said it's important to debate the balance of power in Washington. Republicans in Congress have been agitating for months about what they view as President Barack Obama's selective enforcement of federal laws.

The State: Graham to speak in Beaufort County

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3319848/graham-to-speak-in-beaufort-county.html>

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham will make stops in Beaufort County on Friday and Saturday. Graham, R-S.C., will meet with the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and Military Enhancement Committee at about 10:45 a.m. Friday at the Arsenal, 713 Craven St., Beaufort. Details: Jaime@BeaufortSC.org

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Each College of Charleston presidential finalist has strong points, drawbacks

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140311/PC16/140319862/1177/each-college-of-charleston-presidential-finalist-has-strong-points-drawbacks>

Diane Knich

The College of Charleston's Board of Trustees soon will choose the school's next president from among three finalists with diverse backgrounds. Public reaction to the selection process has grown contentious in recent weeks, largely because the board selected Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as one of the finalists.

The State: Insurance marketplace numbers continue slow rise in S.C.

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/11/3319465/insurance-marketplace-numbers.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

The numbers of insurance policies purchased on the federal Health Insurance Marketplace in South Carolina is up to 36,567 through Feb. 28, according to Ray Farmer, director of the S.C. Department of Insurance. The more detailed federal report on Affordable Care Act marketplace policies is scheduled to come out in a few days, but South Carolina releases some of that information as soon as it gets reports from the four insurance companies that sell policies on the marketplace in the state.

Greenville News: Moore School international business program ranked No. 1

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140312/BUSINESS/303120023/Moore-School-international-business-program-ranked-No-1>

The University of South Carolina's international MBA program regained the top spot in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools released Tuesday. The program at the Darla Moore School of Business has consistently ranked among the nation's elite international business programs and was ranked third last year.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Florence lines up infrastructure projects

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_ed5dbb2a-a981-11e3-b295-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The bidding is open for initial work on more than \$27 million in infrastructure projects in Florence, including two parking decks, an amenities feature, a gymnasium and road improvements. Part new penny sales tax projects and part Tax Increment Funding (TIF) projects, as a whole they represent the city's aggressive commitment to solidify downtown revitalization with infrastructure.

National News:

National Journal: Why a Republican Wave in 2014 is Looking More Likely Now

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/why-a-republican-wave-in-2014-is-looking-more-likely-now-20140311>

Joshua Krshaar

Tuesday night's special election in Florida should be a serious scare for Democrats who worry that Obamacare will be a major burden for their party in 2014. Despite recruiting favored candidate Alex Sink, outspending Republicans, and utilizing turnout tools to help motivate reliable voters, Democrats still lost to Republican lobbyist David Jolly—and it wasn't particularly close.

Associated Press: Republican Party Ups Investment in Colorado

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/republican-party-ups-investment-colorado-22868404>

Nicholas Riccardi

The Republican National Committee is pouring resources into Colorado, adding more than a dozen staffers as a new Senate candidate and sagging poll numbers for Democrats raise GOP hopes of ending the party's decade-long drought on top-of-the-ticket wins in the state.

CNN: Republicans keep House seat in Florida special election

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/03/11/cnn-projects-jolly-wins-florida-special-election/>

Dana Bash, Deidre Walsh

Republican David Jolly won Tuesday's special election in Florida's 13th Congressional District. He will fill out the term of his former boss, longtime Republican Rep. Bill Young, who died in October. Jolly defeated

Democrat Alex Sink, who conceded the race more than an hour after the polls closed.

Brian Symmes

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