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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Campaign funds in the cross-hairs in wake of Harrell indictments

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140913/PC1603/140919691>

Jeremy Borden

The criminal ethics allegations announced last week against House Speaker Bobby Harrell have reignited the debate about how South Carolina's politicians spend dollars in their campaign accounts. State leaders have long argued that tapping into campaign funds for official business saves taxpayer dollars while helping them to better serve the voters.

Note: In the wake of Harrell's indictments, several lawmakers said they plan to revive the ethics debate from this year that died without achieving reforms, despite a push from Gov. Nikki Haley and others.

2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Anderson Independent: Campaign notes: Tom Ervin blasts state social services agency over children's deaths

http://www.independentmail.com/news/campaign-notes-tom-ervin-blasts-state-social-services-agency-over-childrens-deaths_38304642

Nikie Mayo, Kirk Brown

Gubernatorial candidate Tom Ervin criticized the state Department of Social Services last week for its handling of complaints involving a father who now stands accused of killing five children.

Poll says Haley holds big lead: A 2014 Battleground Tracker poll indicates that Haley holds a 20 percent lead over her Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen. The survey of more than 800 South Carolina voters found that 54 percent support Haley, while 34 percent favor Sheheen and 9 percent are undecided.

Island Packet: Sheheen speaks at Democratic rally on St. Helena

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/13/3312099_sheheen-speaks-at-democratic-rally.html?sp=/99/257/&rh=1

Rebecca Lurye

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen stood up on a picnic table just before 3 p.m. Saturday, raised his arm and yelled so he could be heard by the more than 150 people seated outside Penn Center's Darrah Hall on St. Helena Island.

Note: Reached Saturday afternoon, Haley's campaign spokeswoman Chaney Adams said Sheheen is out of touch. "Exploring for energy off our coast -- in a way that protects our most precious natural resources and our beautiful coast -- will not only mean energy independence for Americans but jobs for South Carolina," Adams said.

Note: In June, Haley signed a K-12 education reform initiative that aims to shift money to the poorest districts and sets aside nearly \$60 million for reading coaches and technology improvements in schools.

Florence Morning News: Gubernatorial poll numbers paint varying pictures

http://www.scnw.com/news/politics/article_c69639dc-3b98-11e4-aedc-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Fresh poll numbers out this past week show Republican Gov. Nikki Haley enjoying a comfortable lead over her challengers, whose numbers continue to be influx with 50 days until the Nov. 4 election. The most surprising poll data came from American Research Group that put Haley at 43 percent, Democratic state Sen. Vincent sheheen at 33 percent and Tom Ervin at a whopping 18 percent.

Times and Democrat: Looking to make history: Sellers campaigns in his hometown

http://thetandd.com/news/looking-to-make-history-sellers-campaigns-in-his-hometown/article_fd73dd9a-3ad7-11e4-aeb3-5305a6bb6123.html

Ryanne Persinger

Rep. Bakari Sellers took his campaign for state lieutenant governor to his hometown on Sept. 9. The 29-year-old Democrat spoke at Voorhees College in Denmark where his father, Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, serves as president. He told a crowd of about 50 students and community members that he wants to make history.

The State: Democratic US Senate candidate Hutto: 'I don't mind saying that I'm for government'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/14/3679207/democratic-us-senate-candidate.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Brad Hutto grew up on a dairy farm in Orangeburg County, bailing hay, driving a tractor and milking cows. "I know what hard work is, and today we don't value hard work like we should," the Democratic state senator from Orangeburg told a gathering of Sumter Democrats recently, pressing his candidacy to unseat incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of Seneca.

Bluffton Today: Candidates for S.C. superintendent discuss issues at Bluffton forum

<http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2014-09-14/candidates-sc-superintendent-discuss-issues-bluffton-forum#.VBWG-PldV1Y>

Scott Thompson

The three candidates running for South Carolina superintendent of education agree the state's school districts face several challenges moving ahead.

Note: The candidates weren't as harmonious on academic standards. The state adopted the federal Common Core standards in 2010, but Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill in May to drop and replace them. Spearman said she agreed with Haley.

Florence Morning News: Sabb, Floyd set for District 32 run-off

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_8a47b6a6-3b91-11e4-9e92-001a4bcf6878.html

Joshua Lloyd

After months of rigorous campaigning in the Lowcountry, S.C. Rep. Ronnie Sabb and Williamsburg County Councilman Sam Floyd will face off in Tuesday's election for South Carolina's District 32 Senate seat. The seat is up for grabs after Yancey McGill, who was senator in the district for more than 25 years, relinquished the seat to become lieutenant governor in June.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: Problems go deeper than Harrell

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/09/13/editorial-problems-go-deeper-harrell/15586831/>

Editorial

For the first time in the memory of many people who have followed South Carolina politics for a long time, the speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives has been indicted. Bobby Harrell, the Charleston Republican who has been one of the two or three most powerful leaders in the state, was indicted last week on charges that he illegally spent tens of thousands of dollars from his campaign account on personal expenses.

The State: Harrell indictment changes everything

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/14/3677748/scoppe-harrell-indictment-changes.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

I WAS HIKING up a mountain not far from the Appalachian Trail when Bobby Harrell was indicted. It was mid-afternoon before a friend told me the news, late afternoon before I worked my way through the early news coverage and looked up the relevant statute and puzzled over the bizarre email from Mr. Harrell's spokesman that went to such great lengths to establish that none of the charges against him was a felony.

Aiken Standard: Latest road estimates bring added pressure

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140914/AIK0201/140919833/1018/AIK02/editorial-latest-road-estimates-bring-added-pressure>

Editorial

Fixing roads in South Carolina is now looking even more difficult with an eye-opening shortfall of \$42 billion for infrastructure projects in the state. The latest multi-billion dollar estimate comes from the S.C.

Department of Transportation, who recently released a draft report stating the state's needs for roads and bridges through 2040.

Post and Courier: Rev up efforts to fix roads

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140914/PC1002/140919701>

Editorial

Just two days into the job, acting S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas has begun the legislative process for highway funding and reform. The latest funding shortfall estimate - would you believe \$42 billion? - says transportation ought to be a priority for whomever ends up running the House next session.

The State: Richland County, SC, lawmakers continue to make mess of elections process

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/13/3677157/editorial-richland-county-sc-lawmakers.html>

Editorial

THE RICHLAND County legislative delegation's lackadaisical effort to appoint a new elections board is yet another reminder of why lawmakers shouldn't be a part of this process. It's also a reminder of the role this county's lawmakers played in creating the November 2012 election debacle that has had Richland voters questioning the integrity of elections to this day.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: State lawmakers need to address domestic violence with innovation

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140914/OPINION/409141009/1128?Title=State-lawmakers-need-to-address-domestic-violence-with-innovation>

Editorial

Once again, the Violence Policy Center has ranked the Palmetto State at the top of the list of states where women are most often killed by men. Last year, we were No. 1. This year, we have fallen to No. 2. Don't mistake that for progress. We've been in the top 10 for the past 17 years.

Times and Democrat: Orangeburg knows value of S.C. State, is aware of risk

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/orangeburg-knows-value-of-s-c-state-is-aware-of/article_06d87010-3aad-11e4-a4e4-07343e63376a.html

Editorial

ISSUE: Economic impact of S.C. State. OUR VIEW: Importance to Orangeburg will weigh only so heavily among state leaders. South Carolina State University is in the process of delivering a message that it intends to survive and prosper. It's a message that is appreciated nowhere more than Orangeburg.

Island Packet: Party seeks moderate answer for people fed up with government

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/13/3312088/party-seeks-moderate-answer-for.html?sp=/99/342/>

David Lauderdale

The S.C. State Fair also works to get the pulse of the people, and the people are fed up with their government. So says Jim Rex, who stood in a fair booth last year selling a whole new political party. He and Dr. Oscar Lovelace of Prosperity found plenty of takers when they asked for signatures to help get the American Party of South Carolina certified.

Bobby Harrell News:

The State: Could two words turn into one more headache for Bobby Harrell?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/13/3678925/the-buzz-could-two-words-turn.html>

Andrew Shain

Two words caught The Buzz's eyes in the indictments issued last week against now-suspended House Speaker Bobby Harrell. The Charleston Republican paid himself \$294,335.22 in "untaxed income" from his campaign accounts, according to one of those charges.

2016 prospects coming 3 at a time: Christie and Haley will greet voters in Charleston in the afternoon before attending three private events — one for the Governors Association, another for Haley, and a third for Haley and the S.C. Republican Party, according to a schedule released by the governors group.

Aiken Standard: Aiken House legislators react to Harrell indictment

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20140914/AIK0101/140919767/1004/aiken-house-legislators-react-to-harrell-indictment>

Derrek Asberry

House members from the Aiken County Legislative Delegation said they are saddened by House Speaker

Bobby Harrell's decision to suspend himself after a recent indictment, but agree that he made the right decision. Rep. Harrell, R-Charleston, recently was indicted on nine counts of misconduct in office.

Note: Despite his claims, Gov. Nikki Haley is reportedly calling for Harrell to resign as House Speaker.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

New York Times: Mark Sanford's Breakup Post Caught His Fiancée Off Guard

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/14/us/mark-sanford-mistress-affair-engagement.html?_r=0

Jim Rutenburg

Representative Mark Sanford of South Carolina surprised the political world on Friday with his announcement that he was ending his engagement to the woman with whom he had an extramarital affair, the revelation of which stunted his rising-star career five years ago.

South Carolina News:

The State: Innocents are remembered as finger-pointing begins: Could the Jones children have been saved?

http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/13/3679724_lexington-county-tragedy-innocent.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Carolyn Click

That question, whether the Department of Social Services, the family court that granted Jones custody, and other agencies should have observed the red flags and rescued the children from their home and their impending fate lingers.

Greenville News: DSS reviewing child death data

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/09/14/dss-reviewing-child-death-data/15616207/>

Tim Smith

The state's child welfare agency, which announced this week it was going to begin posting cases of child deaths in an effort to improve transparency and accountability, is unable to say yet how many children with some prior agency involvement died this year from abuse and neglect.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Politics

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140914/PC1603/140919779>

Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate to ride Charleston buses: Joyce Dickerson, the Columbia-area Democrat challenging Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott in November, will be in Charleston on Monday to experience the CARTA bus system.

Florence now the epicenter of state power: State Rep. Bobby Harrell's self-imposed suspension from the Legislature over his ethics violation-related indictment last week means the center of power in the state has effectively moved to the Florence and Pee Dee region of the state.

David Agnew leaves the White House: David Agnew, a former aide to Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and who most recently worked in the Obama White House, has left for the private sector.

The difference between cocaine and corruption: Independent U.S. Senate candidate Thomas Ravenel issued a statement last week after S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, was indicted on corruption-related charges, saying the underlying issue is the two-party system.

Post and Courier: Looking for lessons in domestic tragedies

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140914/PC16/140919793/1177>

Doug Pardue, Glenn Smith

Experts say that failure to evaluate gaps in the safety net leaves domestic violence victims at grave risk in a state that has ranked among the deadliest in the nation for women since 2000, topping that list three times.

The State: New report offers snapshot of healthcare workers in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/09/13/3679446/new-report-offers-snapshot-of.html>

Joey Holleman

A new report offers a snapshot of the number of people working in South Carolina in specific health care professions, including where they work and how quickly or slowly their specialty is growing. The annual South Carolina Health Professions Data Book came out last month, with information based on license renewals for the 2012 or 2013 cycles.

Local News:

Rock Hill Herald: York County housing market showing strong rebound from recession

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/09/13/6321005/york-county-housing-market-showing.html>

Don Worthington

Strong sales in August have helped push the York County housing market to near pre-recession levels, according to local real estate agents and data from the Charlotte Regional Realtors Association. In most of the Fort Mill area, homes have recovered the value they lost during the recession, and some sellers are receiving offers above the list prices, said agent Stephen Cooley with Keller Williams Realty.

Island Packet: School district's unexpected growth has classrooms, buses bursting at seams

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/09/13/3312163/school-districts-unexpected-growth.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Sarah Bowman

Numerous classrooms around the Beaufort County School District are overflowing. There are 664 more students in public schools this year than at this time last year -- 111 in northern Beaufort County and 553 in southern Beaufort County.

Sun News: Horry County farmers face challenges in growing agritourism

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/09/14/4471923/horry-county-farmers-face-challenges.html?sp=/99/134/142/>

Charles D. Perry

Eight miles south of Conway, down U.S. 701 past Bear Swamp, Radd Dew's Bar-B-Que Pit and a sign offering deer processing services, a dirt road leads to Thompson Farm. The nearly 100-acre property is anchored by a farmhouse that dates back to 1825 and a general store that once served Middle Mill, a plant owned by 19th century lumber mogul Henry Buck.

National News:

Associated Press: Hurdles for Obama health law in 2nd sign-up season

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_OVERHAUL_VERSION_2?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-09-14-07-37-16

Richardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Potential complications await consumers as President Barack Obama's health care law approaches its second open enrollment season, just two months away. Don't expect a repeat of last year's website meltdown, but the new sign-up period could expose underlying problems with the law itself that are less easily fixed than a computer system.

Brian Symmes

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