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2014 Campaign Cycle News:

Island Packet: Haley confident in re-election bid at Hilton Head Island stop

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/10/31/3403776_haley-bus-tour-stops-in-hilton.html?rh=1

Zach Murdock

Gov. Nikki Haley's statewide bus tour made two stops Friday in Beaufort County, part of a final push to rally voters before Tuesday's election. A boisterous crowd of about 200 supporters got an early start to chant and cheer for the incumbent Republican at 8 a.m. at the Hilton Head Island Republican Club office on Mathews Drive.

Note: "I know the polls are in our favor right now, but polls don't vote," Haley said. "Let's make sure we're not leaving it up to chance."

Note: "The Technical College (of the Lowcountry) is a shining star," she said. "A lot of these jobs are not university-degree jobs. They pay well; they've got great benefits. They're \$70,000- to \$80,000-a-year jobs, but we just need about 12 months of technical-school training."

Times and Democrat: Haley, McMaster campaign in governor's hometown

http://thetandd.com/news/local/haley-mcmaster-campaign-in-governor-s-hometown/article_b1e3297c-618c-11e4-b3dd-ebcd1872cb20.html

Martha Rose Brown

"I'm not asking you to judge me on my words. Now I'm asking you to judge me on my actions. Look at the results. Look at what we've done. And the beautiful point is, we're just getting started," Gov. Nikki Haley said during a campaign spot in her native Bamberg.

Note: "There was no way I was coming back to Bamberg without my mom and dad. They desperately wanted to be here," she said.

Note: "I love you, Bamberg. I am who I am because of you. There's not a day that goes by that I forget where I came from and I know that it was growing up in this sweet, special town that taught me everything I need to know," she said.

Note: Haley vowed to continue to "work hard to make you proud, to make sure your children have a better education and make sure our towns and rural areas continue to thrive and show that growing up in Bamberg means something."

WAGT: South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley makes campaign stop in Aiken, Bamberg

<http://www.nbc26.tv/story/27179977/south-carolina-governor-nikki-haley-makes-campaign-stop-in-aiken-bamberg>

Nickelle Smith

The countdown clock for Election Day is winding down and politicians are making the last few rounds throughout the CSRA. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley made stops in the Southern part of the state Friday. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley took a bus tour across the state, making pit stops in places like her hometown of Bamberg - Lieutenant Governor hopeful Henry McMaster by her side.

Note: "It's great to be back in Bamberg. That's where I grew up. That's where I learned faith and family, that's where I learned about rural counties and how important they are to South Carolina," said Governor Haley.

Note: "It's the first time in two decades they acknowledged that rural education, that rural schools have a hard time and that we needed to lift them up and make them stronger," Haley said.

New York Times: The races to watch across all 50 states.

South Carolina Governor - Challenger may be falling short:

<http://elections.nytimes.com/2014/state-by-state?ref=politics>

Steven Greenhouse

Four years ago, Vincent Shaheen, a longtime Democratic state senator, came surprisingly close to defeating Nikki R. Haley, a Republican, in the race for governor in this highly conservative state. But Mr. Shaheen's campaign has been seen as lacking the pizzazz of his run in 2010.

Post and Courier: Statewide questions on lottery, military head

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141031/PC1603/141039871>

Robert Behre

All South Carolina voters will decide two amendments Tuesday regarding lotteries and the process for choosing the leader of the state's military. Neither amendment has drawn much controversy or publicity, and only Amendment 2 has triggered much political activity.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley urged voters to approve the change during a stop in Summerville this week.

Note: "We are the only state in the country that still elects our adjutant general. That is my right hand person. That is who manages our National Guard. This is who manages our Emergency Management Division," she said. "We can't leave that up to chance. Years ago, we had a pharmacist that ran for that position. We love pharmacists but they don't need to be running our military."

Greenville News: French, Reeves campaign as long shots for governor

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/31/french-reeves-campaign-long-shots-governor/18273693/>

Tim Smith

Steve French still thinks he has a chance to be South Carolina's next governor but has already set his sights on 2018 if he loses next Tuesday. Morgan Reeves said the latest Winthrop Poll vastly missed his support and he is confident he has at least 100,000 voters who want for him to be governor.

Post and Courier: Early - or absentee - voting steady ahead of Tuesday

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141031/PC1603/141039880>

Schuyler Kropf

Lowcountry voting officials said Friday apparently was the busiest day so far as voters cast absentee ballots ahead of Tuesday's election. Statewide, more than 143,853 absentee ballots have been issued, with about 123,442 returned, the S.C. Election Commission said.

Note: In their first go-round four years ago, Republican Nikki Haley bested Democrat Vincent Sheheen by a 51-47 percent margin, or a difference of 60,000 votes. To improve their chances, Democrats must bump up their organization and turnout numbers now that Haley has the power of incumbency.

Associated Press: Last race for lieutenant governor offers contrasts

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=mMiwEJS7

Seanna Adcox

South Carolina's last race for lieutenant governor features former U.S attorney Henry McMaster, a 67-year-old veteran of Republican politics, against state Rep. Bakari Sellers, a rising star in the Democratic Party who is 30 years old.

Note: He also wants to push for more funding for programs that help seniors live independently, noting that Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed \$2 million this year for those efforts, which include home-delivered meals. Legislators easily overrode the veto.

Note: McMaster emphasizes economic development and his ties with Haley, saying they would represent the first true executive office team.

Greenville News: Deerin raises questions on employee's handling of cash

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/31/deerin-raises-questions-employees-handling-cash/18273927/>

Tim Smith

Secretary of State candidate Ginny Deerin today raised questions about a former employee's handling of cash three years ago that she believes should have been investigated as a possible embezzlement case. But Melissa Dunlap, chief counsel for Secretary of State Mark Hammond, said there was no embezzlement or missing money.

Associated Press: SC Supreme Court: Harrell seat election on ballot

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=0Sx22lql

Seanna Adcox

The general election to fill former House Speaker Bobby Harrell's seat will continue Tuesday while the

Supreme Court considers whether state election commissioners properly called for a special election. The state's high court on Friday set aside the commissioners' decision a day earlier to allow Republicans to find a replacement for Harrell on the ballot.

Post and Courier: House District 114 election to go forward but case will be argued later

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141031/PC1603/141039902>

Jeremy Borden, Schuyler Kropf

The race to fill former House Speaker Bobby Harrell's old seat in the Legislature took another odd twist when the S.C. Supreme Court overruled the Election Commission and said Tuesday's vote will go forward as planned.

The State: SC Supreme Court returns race for Harrell's seat to Tuesday

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/10/31/3781426/sc-supreme-court-returns-race.html>

Andrew Shain

Voters will cast ballots Tuesday for the seat once held by House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, after the S.C. Supreme Court halted a special election ordered by state election officials. The state Elections Commission ruled Thursday that Republicans could hold a primary after Election Day to find a new nominee.

Note: All five election commission members were appointed by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, and they received advice on how to handle Harrell's withdrawal from attorneys working for Republican state Attorney General Alan Wilson.

Anderson Independent: Duncan and Mullis competing for 3rd Congressional District seat

http://www.independentmail.com/news/duncan-and-mullis-competing-for-3rd-congressional-district-seat_04226330

Kirk Brown

By almost every measure, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan appears to be a heavy favorite to win a third term Tuesday. Duncan has received more than 60 percent of the votes in the past two elections for the 3rd Congressional District seat. The conservative-leaning district covers much of western South Carolina, including Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry voters face many questions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141031/PC1603/141039872>

Robert Behre

Lowcountry voters will pick more than candidates on Tuesday. Depending on where they live, they'll also vote on taxing questions about school construction, road building, expanding libraries and putting more sand on the beach. While none of the questions have attracted heated opposition, they might be among the most important decisions facing local voters.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

The Item: St. James Lutheran celebrates literacy with character parade

<http://www.theitem.com/stories/st-james-lutheran-celebrates-literacy-with-character-parade,235235?>

Raytevia Evans

In the spirit of Halloween and to celebrate literacy and their favorite book characters, students at St. James Lutheran School dressed up for a character parade Friday morning.

Note: In South Carolina school districts, educators, legislators and community leaders are continuously pushing literacy in public schools throughout the state. With the recent enactment of Gov. Nikki Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative, many public elementary schools will have reading coaches to continue to advocate for literacy for all South Carolina youth.

The State: Loftis joins fight against Lexington County tax plan

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/01/3782359_loftis-joins-fight-against-lexington.html?rh=1

Tim Flach

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis is joining the fight against a sales tax increase for roads and other improvements in Lexington County. Loftis is urging defeat of the penny-on-the-dollar proposal at the polls Tuesday, spreading his view on social media.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley and Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom are neutral on the ballot measure. Haley "has repeatedly been on record opposing local tax increases but strongly believes in the citizens closest to

the issues having the right to vote on the things that directly effect their wallets,” spokesman Doug Mayer said.

Greenville News: Greenville DMV won't change names for same-sex couples

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/31/greenville-dmv-change-names-sex-couples/18262451/>

Lyn Riddle

Another lawsuit has been filed against the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles by people who were denied drivers licenses because they married someone of the same sex. The lawsuit was filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Greenville. It brings to four the number of lawsuits challenging the state's ban on gay marriage.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson have said they will defend the marriage ban until there is a clear ruling from the federal court.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Update constitution with two 'yes' votes

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/10/31/3404899/update-constitution-with-two-yes.html?sp=/99/342/>

Editorial

Just as important as writing effective new laws is eliminating outdated ones. By voting yes to two amendments Tuesday, voters can clean up parts of the state constitution and end two practices that aren't just outdated, but downright backward.

South Carolina News:

Island Packet: Closure of Charleston Coast Guard air station delayed

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/10/31/3404140/close-of-charleston-coast-guard.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Matt McNab

A plan to close one of the Coast Guard stations that provides helicopter search-and-rescue services in Beaufort County and surrounding areas has been delayed. The commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, postponed the Nov. 30 closing of Air Facility Charleston station until Dec. 15.

Associated Press: More challenges filed SC's same-sex marriage ban

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=fMwaYaT3

Another lawsuit has been filed by people who say South Carolina officials refused to let them use a same-sex spouse's family name on a driver's license. The American Civil Liberties Union and SC Equality filed the lawsuit Friday in federal court.

Greenville News: Mixed results for penny tax votes across S.C.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/10/31/mixed-results-penny-tax-votes-across-sc/18266469/>

Nathaniel Cary

In six South Carolina counties, including Greenville, penny tax referendums have never passed, whether county leaders sought money for roads or education or capital projects, according to the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Florence Morning News: State of SC denies arguments in Florence County lawsuit

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_e3121628-6085-11e4-bf76-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

The state of South Carolina responded earlier this week as a party to the lawsuit filed by Florence County involving the West Florence Fire special purpose district. The state filed their answer Tuesday, after it was granted an extension that was essentially the same as the answer filed by Jay Jordan and John Nichols on behalf of the SPD and the West Florence Fire Commission.

Post and Courier: College of Charleston launches public phase of \$125 million capital campaign

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141031/PC16/141039882>

Diane Knich

Meagan Dunham knew for a long time she wanted to attend the College of Charleston. But the Marion High School class president with a 4.3 grade-point average wouldn't have been able to enroll in the fall of 2013 if

she hadn't received scholarships.

National News:

New York Times: G.O.P. Ads Chase Voters at Home and on the Go

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/01/us/politics/gop-ads-chase-voters-at-home-and-on-the-go-.html?referrer=&_r=1

Nick Corasaniti, Ashley Parker

Commuters on the sea-hugging Montauk line of the Long Island Rail Road had a shared experience while browsing the Internet on their smartphones recently: A half-screen ad popped up attacking Representative Timothy H. Bishop as “one of Congress’s most corrupt” members.

Associated Press: Republicans take big lead in Colorado early voting

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Republicans-take-big-lead-in-Colorado-early-voting-5862038.php>

Nicholas Riccardi

Republicans have taken a big lead in mail-in votes cast in Colorado. A report from the Secretary of State on Friday showed 104,000 more Republicans than Democrats had cast their ballots as the state conducts its first major mail-in election. The figure amounts to a 9-percentage point lead with more than half the expected ballots already cast.

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