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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Index-Journal: Investment creates 98 more jobs

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Investment-creates-98-more-jobs>

CCL Industries Inc., a world leader in the development of label and specialty packing solutions for global producers of consumer brands, is investing \$30 million to expand its label division's manufacturing operations in Laurens County, according to a news release Tuesday from Gov. Nikki Haley's office.

Note: The expansion will result in 98 new jobs over the next five years and a 36,000-square-foot addition to the company's existing facility at 29485 Highway 76 East in Clinton.

Times and Democrat: SCSU financial woes become desperate, ex-chair found guilty of corruption tops T&D Region's stories

http://thetandd.com/news/scsu-financial-woes-become-desperate-ex-chair-found-guilty-of/article_145cc188-8e53-11e4-8d9e-1faffcf36607.html

The past year saw South Carolina State University on the verge of financial disaster, on probation by its accrediting agency and in the news when former Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson was convicted on numerous corruption charges.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley abstained from the Budget and Control Board vote in December, saying "There were no terms put with it, no accountability put with it, no responsibility."

Note: "I wiped my hands of it," she said.

The State: THE BUZZ – The Buzzards: The best of 2014 in politics

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/27/3895786/the-buzz-the-buzzards-the-best.html>

Cassie Cope

Best politician to quote - Winner: *State Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee.* Whether he is joking, Tweeting, angry or emotional, the senator makes his point in his deep-voiced "Gaffanese."

Best breakup – Runner Up: *Gov. Haley and Katrina Shealy.* Haley and state Sen. Shealy, longtime Lexington Republican political allies, had a public falling out on social media over then-state Department of Social Services director Lillian Koller in April. The spat began when Haley called out Shealy on her Facebook page, accusing the senator of spreading a rumor that Koller was an atheist.

Best neglected issue - Winner: *Crumbling roads.* South Carolina's interstate system is more than 50 years old. South Carolina's 16.75 cent-a-gallon gas tax – much lower than Georgia and North Carolina's – has not increased in 27 years.

Note: Bills to increase the gas tax or other taxes to pay for roads failed this year, and Gov. Nikki Haley, R-Lexington, has said she will veto any tax increase.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Times and Democrat: Domestic violence: S.C. punishment must fit crime

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/domestic-violence-s-c-punishment-must-fit-crime/article_11db69f2-8e1f-11e4-a61d-3bf7ada5d992.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Domestic violence; OUR OPINION: Slaps on the wrist are not good enough. The state's chief executive has announced formation of a task force to address the issue of domestic violence in South Carolina, which continues to rank among the worst states for the abuse and killing of women by men.

Note: "Think about your daughters, think about your sisters, think about your mother, think about the 10 million children (nationwide) that see abuse in their families — what are we doing for them?" — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Post and Courier: Report offers paths to a better mobility future

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC1002/141229512>

Editorial

Is the city ready to enforce a partial ban on motoring below Broad Street, or get on board a revival of trolleys? Probably not, at least in the near term. But the controversial aspects of the Peninsula Mobility Report released last week shouldn't derail the proposals that could be implemented more easily to good effect.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): Fundamental goodness defined Jim Edwards

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC1002/141229517>

Ron Brinson

Jim Edwards has died, and there is a void in the heart and soul and political spirit of his beloved South Carolina. This good man was an American patriot, a principled leader. His gracious humility framed his soaring intellect. His life was anchored by those simple old-fashioned American values of education and enterprise, of caring for your family and your neighbors and your country.

Post and Courier: 'SEC Primary' could affect South Carolina GOP primary's impact

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC1603/141229609>

Editorial

A "Southeastern Conference Primary" could affect S.C.'s presidential status. There's a chance South Carolina's 2016 Republican presidential primary could be overshadowed by a glut of other Deep South votes in the upcoming White House nomination season. The good news is that South Carolina's first-in-the-South status would not be threatened on the calendar by the other state votes.

Greenville News (Guest Column): Gov. Haley can fix road problem

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/12/28/gov-haley-can-fix-road-problem/20875783/>

Bob Land

When are our governor and legislators going to step up to the plate and do the right thing regarding our crumbling infrastructure? Many people were critical when Greenville County tried to get a 1 percent sales tax referendum approved. That effort would not have been necessary if our governor and legislators would do their job.

Aiken Standard: The potential is there for a not so lame duck term

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141228/AIK0201/141229578/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The last few months of a presidential term are usually seen, at least anecdotally, as being "lame duck," where not much is expected to get accomplished. It has been seven weeks since the midterm elections that resulted in a Republican landslide in Congress that seemed to put President Barack Obama on his heels with not much momentum to get anything done.

Island Packet: Judge speaks clearly for constitutional rights

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/28/3507339/judge-speaks-clearly-for-constitutional.html?sp=/99/342/1750/>

Editorial

No court ruling can bring back a child who was railroaded by the so-called justice system of South Carolina 70 years ago and executed. But 14th Circuit Court Judge Carmen Mullen of Hilton Head Island did the next best thing this month when she vacated the conviction.

Post and Courier: Find new ways to manage tourism

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC1002/141229513>

Editorial

One of the most important points of the report by the Tourism Management Advisory Committee comes after some insightful and promising recommendations regarding congestion, parking, signage and public restrooms: The committee will be asked to monitor any changes City Council approves.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Aiken Standard: Aiken County legislators share thoughts on guns, domestic violence

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141228/AIK0101/141229567/1004/aiken-county-legislators-share-thoughts-on-guns-domestic-violence>

Maayan Schechter

Guns now have their place in restaurants and bars in South Carolina, allowing people with concealed-weapon permits to bring them in, but not drink. The Aiken Standard asked members of the Aiken County delegation whether rights such as those should be allowed to people holding a conviction of domestic violence.

Post and Courier: Will Bobby Harrell ethics conviction trigger change in 2015?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC1603/141229774>

Schuyler Kropf

Bobby Harrell's loss may be South Carolina's gain - that is, if his ethics conviction results in meaningful ethics reform in 2015. Not since the FBI's Statehouse sting of the 1990s known as "Operation Lost Trust" has there been so much public ammunition indicating something needs to be done to better clarify, police and commit resources toward keeping lawmakers in check.

Aiken Standard: S.C. Sen. Tom Young named Aiken Standard's Person of the Year

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141228/AIK0101/141229568/1121>

Michael Ulmer

The future of Aiken County's education system essentially hinged on two ballot questions in 2014. Were voters willing to increase the local sales tax to pay for upgrades to schools? If so, would they also allow bonds to be issued to get those projects done faster? The answers to both turned out to be "yes," a decision that cemented a new direction and outlook for the community for years to come.

The State: Bills would expand SC's FOIA law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/27/3895577/bills-would-expand-scs-foia-law.html>

A Bluffton state representative has prefiled three bills for next year's legislative session that would make it easier for the public to request government information. The bills would also give residents a way to contest a denial of information. Republican state Rep. Weston Newton said his goal is to make government more accessible for the average citizen.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Tim Scott made history in 2014

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229627>

Robert Behre

Seven years ago, Tim Scott was just another Charleston County councilman. This year, however, the former businessman became South Carolina's first African-American ever elected to the U.S. Senate and its first black candidate elected statewide since Reconstruction. Scott was sworn into the Senate in early 2013, shortly after Sen. Jim DeMint resigned, and the new Republican has mostly hewn to the conservative line, said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Attorney General Alan Wilson pursues Harrell; fights gay marriage

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC1603/141229752>

Jeremy Borden

Attorney General Alan Wilson had a seesaw year in 2014, as the ups and downs of the high stakes case with former House Speaker Bobby Harrell played out in the courtroom and in public. But the high-profile case sets up what could be a particularly productive 2015 for the attorney general. Wilson has brought lawsuits against the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's executive orders concerning immigration and same-sex marriage.

Greenville News: Cost, privacy among concerns with police body cameras

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/27/cost-privacy-among-concerns-police-body-cameras/20938753/>

Romando Dixon

As a national debate erupts over police use of force, law enforcement agencies across the Upstate are taking a hard look at body cameras designed to record officer's encounters and potentially shed light on

instances of excessive force or even curtail it. Many law enforcement agencies in the Upstate have at least a few body cameras, and others are weighing whether outfitting all officers with the recording devices is financially feasible or even necessary.

Post and Courier: Colleen Condon leads same-sex couples in right to marry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229626>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Just 20 months had passed since Charleston County Councilwoman Colleen Condon announced at a committee meeting that she is gay to clarify a political blog post. Few observers imagined that so soon, in a highly conservative state like South Carolina, Condon and her fiancée, Nichols Bleckley, would become the first same-sex couple in South Carolina to receive a marriage license.

Associated Press: SC districts preparing for timed end-of-year tests

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=NXts5VFX

The Post and Courier reports Saturday (<http://bit.ly/1wSDFWM>) that the state Department of Education informed superintendents last month that ACT Inc.'s Aspire tests will assess student performance in the core subjects in April. Test-takers in third through eighth grades will have 30 to 60 minutes to complete each section.

The State: 7 lawsuits filed against USC Medical School clinics over unsafe steroid shots

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/27/3895714_7-lawsuits-filed-against-usc-medical.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

John Monk

Unsanitary conditions in preparing injections for steroid shots laden with deadly bacteria that allegedly ruined peoples' lives have led to seven lawsuits being filed in recent weeks against the University of South Carolina Medical School and its related clinics, according to court filings.

Post and Courier: Road to leaving domestic abuse riddled with hardships and hurdles

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229628>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

The first time she stayed at My Sister's House for abused women, Laura Nelson had just turned 7, a scared little girl with curly blonde hair, hazel eyes and a battered mother. She is 22 now as she arrives at the emergency shelter with her face bruised, right wrist fractured, eyes swollen from crying and a deep fear for her future. It's late, nearing 11 p.m., when she steps back through the door.

Post and Courier: Zucker donations further education, sea turtle hospital

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229616>

Abigail Darlington

Anita Zucker, chief executive officer of the InterTech Group in North Charleston, was again named one of the wealthiest Americans by Forbes this year. The publication estimated her net worth to be about \$2.4 billion, but it's her tendency to spread that wealth, particularly among educational institutions, that made headlines in 2014.

Index-Journal: Duke Energy to remove coal ash from Lee site

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Duke-Energy-to-remove-coal-ash-from-Lee-site>

Colin Riddle

In a letter dated Dec. 18 to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control, Duke Energy submitted plans to remove coal ash from an inactive basin and ash fill area from the Lee site in Anderson County on the Saluda River. The power company also committed to excavating all coal ash on the site.

Post and Courier: Glenn McConnell takes over at College of Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229629>

Prentiss Findlay

Glenn McConnell became College of Charleston president on July 1 after a distinguished political career, including a lengthy tenure as Senate president pro tempore, a post many consider the state's most powerful. But his transition from lieutenant governor to academia met with strong resistance from critics among the student body, the faculty and the NAACP.

Local News:

Associated Press: Charleston's Riley to work until lights turned off

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

Bruce Smith

Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., the man who has served as Charleston mayor longer than any other in the city's almost 350-year history, plans to be working hard, not reflecting, during his final year in office. "I expect to be working right up until I turn the lights off and leave this building the night before I leave office," Joseph P. Riley Jr. said during a recent interview with The Associated Press in the office where, for almost 40 years, he had led the city he loves.

Rock Hill Herald: Great Falls school shows how technology should work

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/27/6655513_great-falls-school-shows-how-technology.html?rh=1

Rachel Southmayd

The Great Falls Elementary School building isn't much to look at. Located in downtown Great Falls, the school of about 440 pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students seems small and unassuming from the outside. But what happens in this mostly rural, highly impoverished school is neither small nor unassuming, and it's been enough to get the attention of one of the world's leading technology companies: Microsoft.

Florence Morning News: Mayor predicts 'sea change' in downtown Florence

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_76d17ef6-8d3d-11e4-bbc2-9b04cb05951e.html

Gavin Jackson

Several of the county's top leaders recently sat down with the Morning News to discuss the past year and the future. In this segment, Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela expounds upon the highlights of 2014, an important building year that will fuel a second wave of investment that will hit downtown and Florence next year.

Post and Courier: Charleston road closures announced ahead of Monday funeral service for former Gov.

Jim Edwards

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229505>

Christina Elmore

Charleston police have announced several upcoming road closures in preparation for former Gov. Jim Edwards' Monday funeral service. Edwards gained national attention as the first Republican governor elected in South Carolina since Reconstruction. He is also remembered for leading the Medical University of South Carolina to national prominence.

Post and Courier: Charleston County schools chief resigns amid controversy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141227/PC16/141229623>

Amanda Kerr

The Charleston County School Board is poised to launch a national search next year to find a new leader for the state's second largest school district following the dramatic resignation this fall of Nancy McGinley.

National News:

Politico: Race and the race

The GOP's 2016 slate may be its most diverse ever, but don't expect the candidates to talk much about it.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/12/race-and-the-race-113812.html#ixzz3NCiHaWC7>

Katie Glueck, Tarini Parti

Bobby Jindal is Indian-American, but you'll never hear him describe himself that way. Marco Rubio insists he's an "American of Hispanic descent." And Ted Cruz "certainly" identifies as Hispanic, but he didn't run for office as "the Hispanic guy." These Republican lawmakers, along with African-American conservative favorite Ben Carson, look poised to make the 2016 GOP presidential field the party's most diverse ever.

Washington Post: Obama hopes to enlist GOP in push for trade pact, despite Democratic resistance

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-hopes-to-enlist-gop-in-push-for-trade-pact-despite-democratic-resistance/2014/12/26/81236a34-8600-11e4-b9b7-b8632ae73d25_story.html

David Nakamura

President Obama is preparing a major push on a vast free-trade zone that seeks to enlist Republicans as partners and test his premise that Washington can still find common ground on major initiatives. It also will test his willingness to buck his own party in pursuit of a legacy-burnishing achievement.

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