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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Rock Hill Herald: Local educators disappointed with Common Core changes

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/05/11/5951535/local-educators-disappointed-with.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachel Southmayd

Once again, South Carolina teachers and administrators are waiting. Because of recent legislation, teachers don't know what standardized tests their students will take next year. They also don't know what curriculum standards will be in place two years from now.

Note: The Senate bill is now back in the House, which may make changes. But Hayes said he's confident a final version will be ready for Gov. Nikki Haley to sign soon. In January, Haley called on the state to drop Common Core.

Times and Democrat: SCSU 'endangered,' but worth preserving, ex-CofC president says

http://thetandd.com/news/local/scsu-endangered-but-worth-preserving-ex-cofc-president-says/article_6b3f02c6-d8bf-11e3-908c-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

Calling South Carolina State University "endangered," a member of the committee tasked with creating a plan to stabilize the institution says he will approach the effort without preconceived notions.

Note: The issue will not have to go back before the General Assembly or receive approval from Gov. Nikki Haley once the amendment creating the committee becomes law.

Note: Hutto does not foresee Haley vetoing the amendment dealing with S.C. State.

2014 Campaign Cycle news:

The State: GOP candidates for SC lieutenant governor see bigger roles

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439612/gop-candidates-for-sc-lieutenant.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

The four Republicans vying to win the nomination for S.C. lieutenant governor have bigger designs for the second-ranking office at the State House. No, they will not discuss using the job to run for governor in 2018. But they do talk of gubernatorial-like priorities for the office, ranging from education to ethics to economic development.

Note: If one of the Republicans wins in November, Haley will get a lieutenant governor who says he is looking forward to working with her if she is re-elected. All four GOP candidates say they are willing to coordinate with governor. Three of them – Campbell, McKinney and McMaster – also tout their ties to the Lexington Republican.

The State: Lt. Governor candidate connections to Haley?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439598/lt-governor-candidate-connections.html>

Three of the GOP candidates for lieutenant governor have ties to Republican Gov. Nikki Haley. A look at those ties...

Sun News: Democratic candidates coming to Galivants Ferry for biennial stump event

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/05/10/4220353/democratic-candidates-coming-to.html#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

For nearly 140 years, Democratic candidates from across South Carolina have traveled to Galivants Ferry to deliver their stump speech directly to the voters. The first documented speech was delivered when Gen. Wade Hampton rode up on horseback in 1876 during the S.C. governors race, said Russell Holliday.

Index-Journal: Candidates spout their platforms at Democratic forum

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/News/News/Article/Candidates-spout-their-platforms-at-Democratic-forum/4/40/25435>

Matt Bruce

With party primary elections about a month away, a steady stream of candidates for multiple national and statewide elections trickled into the Woodlawn Grange Hall in Greenwood on Saturday to hold court. Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who is running to dethrone Gov. Nikki Haley, was not at the cookout. But he was well represented as his father Fred Sheheen delivered an impassioned speech, calling Haley's administration a "hallmark of hypocrisy" and outlining why his son should win the seat.

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham's record takes center stage in GOP primary race

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140510/PC1603/140519939/1177/lindsey-grahams-record-takes-center-stage-in-gop-primary-race>

Robert Behre, Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's six Republican primary opponents have spent months picking apart his 12-year Senate career. Too quick to compromise, they say. Too friendly with Democrats in some instances or, in others, too hawkish and too close to Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain.

Associated Press: GOP candidate calls on NAACP to end boycott of SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tfqNlqi2

Andrew Coffman Smith

Gary Burgess, a member of the Anderson County School Board, said the boycott is hurting education by preventing visits from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and denying the state money from NCAA tournament events.

Florence Morning News: Sullivan to lean on Florence County government experience

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_de49306c-d89b-11e3-a5a7-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

After working for Florence County for 30 years, Tommy Sullivan retired as a deputy emergency management director, communications manager/911 coordinator earlier this year, giving him more time to oversee his automotive services shop of 18 years and also to run for the District 1 seat that he believes could benefit from his experience.

Florence Morning News: Is superintendent candidate's idea half baked?

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_7db232e2-d88e-11e3-9e83-001a4bcf6878.html

Ellen Meder

Is Sheila Gallagher an innovative thinker who is perhaps ahead of her time, or is she a candidate looking for attention, or worse, trying to open the state up to a dangerous drug? The answer depends on who you talked to in South Carolina last week.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: House plan gives us less than minimum on ethics

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/11/3437474/scoppe-house-plan-gives-us-less.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

IN SOUTH Carolina, the defenders of the status quo win not by getting the most votes or making the best arguments but simply by wearing down the reformers. And that is painfully close to happening with ethics reform.

Florence Morning News: Repeat hack attacks make little headway in Columbia

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/article_1a1bb616-d87c-11e3-a592-001a4bcf6878.html

Editorial

More than 60 years later, though, that turn of phrase could be attributed to Sen. Vincent Sheheen's quest to not let South Carolina's 2012 cyber-hacking fade from memory (at least not until his gubernatorial election in November).

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Government should be accountable to the people it failed

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140511/OPINION/405111016/-1/RSS02?Title=Government-should-be-accountable-to-the-people-it-failed>

Editorial

The hacking of the S.C. Department of Revenue computer system and the theft of millions of South Carolinians' tax returns was a colossal government failure. The state required residents to give it their detailed personal financial information, and then the state failed to protect that data.

The State: Richland council must be good steward over roads program

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3437458/editorial-richland-council-must.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

WHEN RICHLAND County elected officials and leaders sold the penny-on-the-dollar transportation sales tax to voters in 2012, their pitch included a vow to get "shovel ready" impact projects off the ground quickly; that's proving easier said than done.

Legislative Session News:

Anderson Independent: Senators want Clemson's former president to help stabilize South Carolina State University

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/may/10/senators-want-clemsons-former-president-to-help/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

State senators want former Clemson University President Jim Barker to serve on a blue-ribbon committee that would seek to stabilize financially troubled South Carolina State University. Under a measure that senators approved Thursday, the committee and South Carolina State University's board of trustees would develop a budget plan for the historically black school in Orangeburg.

The State: The score on Common Core?

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439227/the-buzz-the-score-on-common-core.html>

Jamie Self

Now that South Carolina's legislative protest of the Common Core education standards has passed the House and the Senate, lawmakers disagree about what their bill, which soon could be on Gov. Nikki Haley's desk, actually will do.

The State: House Ethics members mostly mum on Harrell-Wilson feud

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439224/the-buzz-house-ethics-members.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The Buzz asked five members of the House Ethics Committee what they would do if a judge decides that they – not the state's top prosecutor, Attorney General Alan Wilson – should be the first stop for all allegations against House members, including specifically Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston.

Post and Courier: Should South Carolina's colleges and universities add students to governing boards?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140510/PC1603/140519986/1031/should-south-carolinas-colleges-and-universities-add-students-to-governing-boards>

Jeremy Borden

It's not an easy time to be a governing board member at the College of Charleston. Lawmakers want to punish the school for the selection of last year's summer reading book "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic." The book choice also contributed to the ouster of one of the college's board members, Daniel Ravenel.

Island Packet: Legislators considering bills to allow some to keep 4 percent property tax rate

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/05/10/3104363/legislators-considering-bills.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Two bills that would extend the state's 4 percent property-tax assessment ratio to more homeowners were unanimously approved by a S.C. House subcommittee last week. The first would allow homeowners to apply for the 4 percent rate if the residence is occupied by a relative 65 or older, according to Rep. Bill Herbkersman, R-Bluffton.

Post and Courier: Lowcountry budgets bracing for another round of state funding cuts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140510/PC16/140519942/1006/another-round-of-state-funding-cuts-expected>

Diane Knich, Prentiss Findlay

Dorchester County hasn't been able to hire more public safety employees to serve its growing population because it has suffered cuts in state funding, along with other counties, cities and towns statewide. Local governments in the region are bracing themselves for possible cuts in state funding for basic services for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Post and Courier: Capt. Sam's Spit, new storm wave device also part of S.C. House 'seawall' bill
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140511/PC16/140519929/1006/sc-house-seawall-bill-also-could-affect-capt-sams-and-wave-dissipation-device-issues>

Bo Petersen

A South Carolina House bill proposing to ease restrictions on rebuilding seawalls is worrisome for conservationists in the Lowcountry. A seven-year delay proposed in the law is just as concerning. The law would establish a new, permanent "base line" in the dunes beyond which no building can take place, but delays implementing it for seven years.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Washington Post: Who are the members of the new House Benghazi committee?
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/05/09/who-are-the-members-of-the-new-house-benghazi-committee/>

Ed O'Keefe

House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) formally announced the members of a select committee to investigate the September 2012 terrorist attacks against U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. In speculation mirroring predictions about who would be picked first during this week's NFL draft, House aides, congressional reporters and other political junkies have been trying to guess all week who might be appointed to the panel.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC Technical College System: Training born out of SC's economic necessity
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439166/sc-technical-college-system-training.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

In 1959, the General Assembly didn't want to put up the money to start a state technical college system – despite two thirds of South Carolina's work force being functionally illiterate and the state teetering between economic desperation and collapse.

The State: New chief leading S.C.'s tech college system into future
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439169/new-chief-leading-scs-tech-college.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

Educating 58 percent of all the college undergraduates in South Carolina is a daunting task, but newly appointed technical system president Jimmie Williamson sees it as a distinction to be enjoyed. It certainly is an indication of how far "tech school" in the Palmetto State has come.

The State: SC parents pressured to donate to scholarship group
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/05/10/3439435/exclusive-sc-parents-pressured.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

The leader of a West Columbia private school says her students' parents are being pressured to donate to the new private-school choice program, created to help parents of children with disabilities afford private school.

Local News:

Greenville News: Clemson ordered to share surplus tax funds
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/05/10/city-ordered-share-surplus-tax-funds/8955573/>

Ron Dekett

Clemson's elected officials are pondering whether to appeal a \$1.38 million judgment against the city involving how surplus property taxes from a tax increment financing district are to be distributed. The judgment stems from a lawsuit filed two years ago against Clemson by Pickens County and the Pickens County School District.

National News:

The Hill: Biden takes shot at Clintons in SC

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/205770-report-biden-takes-shot-at-clintons-in-sc>

Cameron Joseph

Vice President Joe Biden gave a closed-door speech Friday to South Carolina Democrats that included a shot at the Clintons. Biden, a potential 2016 candidate, said the unraveling of middle-class financial security began in "the later years of the Clinton administration," not under George W. Bush, CNN reported Saturday.

Reuters: Democrats struggle to win over skeptical Americans on Obamacare

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/11/us-usa-politics-newhampshire-idUSBREA4A03R20140511>

Susan Cornwell

Barack Obama and his Democratic allies in the Congress have grown more confident in recent months about their ability to use the president's signature healthcare law as a draw rather than a liability in this November's midterm elections.

Politico: \$474M for 4 failed Obamacare exchanges

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=CBF46213-B694-432F-AEE0-0575471EC5AA>

Jennifer Haberkorn

Nearly half a billion dollars in federal money has been spent developing four state Obamacare exchanges that are now in shambles – and the final price tag for salvaging them may go sharply higher. Each of the states – Massachusetts, Oregon, Nevada and Maryland – embraced Obamacare and each underperformed.

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