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Governor Nikki Haley News

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley, S.C. legislators discuss incentives to get, keep rural teachers
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130316/PC16/130319411/1268/gov-haley-sc-legislators-discuss-incentives-to-get-keep-rural-teachers>

Doug Pardue

Incentives to lure more teachers to South Carolina's struggling school districts may be on the way, if talks between Gov. Nikki Haley and legislators pan out. Exactly what the incentives might be remains unclear, but Haley and the chairmen of the House and Senate education committees say they generally agree some incentive may be one way to get more teachers to poor districts where they are needed.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley to hold egg hunt at Governor's Mansion
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ehbJO2v

Staff Report

Gov. Nikki Haley is holding an Easter egg hunt at the Governor's Mansion for children who have spent time in the hospital. The hunt starts at 4:30 p.m. Monday. It has been a tradition since it was first organized in 1986 by Ann "Tunky" Riley, the late wife of Gov. Dick Riley.

Associated Press: Voters to weigh in on Sanford's political comeback
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=F9soDe5T

Bruce Smith

The voters weigh in Tuesday on former Gov. Mark Sanford's hopes of a comeback, four years after his political career was derailed by his tearful admission of an affair that gave new meaning to hiking the Appalachian Trail. Sanford is one of 16 Republicans vying in Tuesday's primary in South Carolina's 1st Congressional District along the state's southern coast. Voters will choose candidates to fill the seat left empty when Gov. Nikki Haley appointed Tim Scott to the U.S. Senate.

Post and Courier: Your chance to choose (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130318/PC1002/130319328/1021/your-chance-to-choose>
Editorial

Familiar excuse for not voting: The choices on the ballot are too limited. That alibi sounds like an especially wide stretch for Tuesday's primaries to pick a new representative from the 1st Congressional District. That's because 18 candidates are running to replace Tim Scott, who was promoted to the U.S. Senate by Gov. Nikki Haley after Jim DeMint resigned from the upper chamber with four years left in his second term.

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South Carolina News

The State: Horry County fire has caused 'significant loss;' Red Cross opens shelter
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/16/2680232/horry-county-fire-has-caused-significant.html>

Amanda Kelley

A large fire at Windsor Green in Carolina Forest has caused "significant damage" and touched numerous buildings, burning some to the ground. Plumes of black smoke were sent billowing into the evening sky. Burning buildings could be heard crackling from hundreds of feet away as they were consumed. Horry County Fire Rescue responded to the fire around 5 p.m. Spokeswoman Leslie Yancey said it began as a brush fire, then spread quickly into neighboring condos and single family dwellings. There has been "significant loss," Yancey said, but no injuries have been reported. Firefighters are still battling the blaze, but it has been "contained to one area," Yancey said.

Associated Press: Authorities investigate cause of SC fire

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rjB92h6r

Staff Report

Authorities say investigators with the S.C. Forestry Commission are at the scene of the blaze that destroyed dozens of buildings in Carolina Forest. Forestry Service spokesman Scott Hawkins tells the Sun News of Myrtle Beach the investigators will try to find where and how the original grass and woods fire began.

Associated Press: Red flag fire weather alert issued for all of SC

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5PIStvdh

Staff Report

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has issued a red flag fire weather alert for the entire state effective at midnight. A statement issued by the commission Saturday said weather conditions, including wind gusts of up to 30 miles per hour in some areas, low relative humidity, and warm temperatures, will contribute to an elevated fire danger level. The alert will remain in effect until it's lifted by the commission.

Greenville News: Fires still burning out of control in parts of state

Forestry Commission: postpone outdoor burning

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130317/NEWS/303170037/Fires-still-burning-out-control-parts-state>

Clark Brooks

With fires still burning and many more now contained or controlled across the state, the S.C. Forestry Commission said today that its red flag fire weather alert remains in effect, meaning that residents should postpone outdoor burning until a dangerous combination of weather conditions subside. Fires that broke out Saturday have caused extensive damage. Although the Upstate has suffered less than other regions, an apartment building outside Pickens was destroyed as wind fueled a blaze that started shortly before 4 p.m. inside one of the apartments, Chris Elrod, training officer for the Pickens Fire Department, told GreenvilleOnline.com this morning.

Greenville News: Weather blamed for weekend wildfires across state

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130318/NEWS/303180009/Weather-blamed-weekend-wildfires-across-state>

Mike Foley

Dry and windy weather across South Carolina resulted in more than 100 wildfires over the weekend, with five still burning out of control late Sunday. Scott Hawkins of the South Carolina Forestry Commission said 14 fires that were brought under control earlier were still being monitored for hot spots.

The State: Carolina Forest fire images (Photo Gallery)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2681089/photos-carolina-forest-fire.html>

The State: Firefighters tackle brush fires as fire alert issued for state

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2679320/firefighters-tackle-brush-fires.html>

Staff Report

Firefighters tackle motel, brush fires as red alert issued The Columbia-Richland and the Irmo fire departments responded to a fire Saturday afternoon at the Affordable Suites at 150 Stoneridge Drive.

Post and Courier: Local firefighters battling brush and woods fires as authorities warn against outdoor burning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130317/PC16/130319362/1005/local-firefighters-battling-brush-and-woods-fires-as-authorities-warn-against-outdoor-burning>

Natalie Caula

Firefighters around the Lowcountry barely took a break Saturday as they battled one brush fire after another as nearly 100 acres burned in different spots around Charleston and Berkeley counties. South Carolina's Forestry Commission had issued an alert and warning that this weekend's dry, warm and windy weather was going to increase the danger of wildfires in South Carolina.

The State: SC clash between gun rights, pediatricians' free speech

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2680158/sc-clash-between-gun-rights-pediatricians.html>

John Monk

Some 57 House lawmakers have signed on to a bill that would make it illegal for doctors to discuss gun

safety with their patients. The bill has stunned some doctors, especially pediatricians, who say they do talk with patients about safety steps to be taken when there's a gun in the household, to make sure a child isn't accidentally shot. Besides, they say, they are guaranteed free speech under the First Amendment, just as gun owners have gun rights under the Second Amendment.

Post and Courier: Guard who survived attempt on his life now on mission to jam cellphones in S.C. prisons
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130317/PC16/130319348/1005/guard-who-survived-attempt-on-his-life-now-on-mission-to-jam-cellphones-in-sc-prisons>

Glenn Smith

Robert Johnson knew a price had been placed on his head, but he always assumed they'd come after him within the prison walls he knew so well. A shank to the back. A lock in a sock swung upside his head. Something quick, homemade and lethal.

The State: The moral argument for Medicaid expansion (Opinion)
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2677571/scoppe-the-moral-argument-for.html>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

Outside the brief, and fruitless, effort this past week by House Democrats, the debate over expanding Medicaid to cover more of the working poor has been waged largely on economic terms, and understandably so: This decision has profound economic consequences — both in terms of the cost to state government of doing it and the much larger cost to all of us of not doing it. But for many people, this is first and foremost a moral question, a question of our obligation to the least of these. It is in that context that the leader of the state's 200,000 Roman Catholics, the Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone, has engaged this ongoing political battle, framing the question in terms that any Christian would have to see as profoundly powerful.

The State: Choose SC military leader based on merit, not politics (Opinion)
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2677555/editorial-choose-sc-military-leader.html>

Editorial

Members of the U.S. military are strictly prohibited from engaging in politics beyond casting their ballots. Even the top commanders, who work closely with the president, are prohibited from expressing their opinions about the current president, much less those who would be president. Across our nation, officials abandoned the idea of electing military leaders around the time of the Civil War, and the rest of the world has likewise come around to our nation's way of thinking: that merit, not politics, should determine military leaders, and that those leaders should be directly and immediately accountable to civilian leaders.

Post and Courier: Strengthen law regarding investigation of sexual assault cases on campus (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130317/PC1002/130319373/1021/strengthen-law-regarding-investigation-of-sexual-assault-cases-on-campus>

Editorial

Investigating sexual assault cases is difficult for law enforcement under the best circumstances. Throw in inexperience, inadequate resources and a potential for conflict of interest, and the investigation could easily fail to establish a case strong enough to prove. South Carolina's Jessica Horton Act unintentionally opened the door to inadequate investigations of sexual assault. State Sens. Robert Ford, Vincent Sheheen and Larry Martin are trying to fix that.

Gannett: Congressmen report transactions more quickly
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130317/NEWS/303170010/Congressmen-report-transactions-more-quickly>

Brian Tumult and Mary Orndorff Troyan

Members of Congress are disclosing high-dollar financial transactions more quickly to comply with a law enacted 11 months ago to discourage insider trading by lawmakers and their staffs. Among members of South Carolina's congressional delegation, Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land, is so far the only one who has reported such activity.

Post and Courier: One day until 1st District primaries
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130318/PC16/130319306/1005/one-day-until-1st-district-primaries>
Robert Behre

The Lowcountry's skies may cloud up Tuesday, but Lowcountry voters will clear up who remains in the running for the vacant 1st Congressional District seat. Sixteen Republicans and two Democrats are running,

and the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the district, which includes parts of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties.

Post and Courier: What 1st Congressional District voters need to know before the Tuesday primaries
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130317/PC16/130319349/1005/what-1st-congressional-district-voters-need-to-know-before-the-tuesday-primaries>

Robert Behre

Voters will answer some intriguing questions Tuesday in the 1st Congressional District primaries. Has Mark Sanford earned the public's forgiveness for his Appalachian Trail debacle, or will one of his 15 Republican opponents connect with enough voters to top the former governor?

The State: SLED probing possible electrocution at Department of Mental Health's Columbia campus
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2681423/sled-probing-possible-electrocution.html>

Staff Report

The body of a man who possibly died of electrocution was found around 10 a.m. Sunday at the S.C. Department of Mental Health's Bull Street campus, Richland County coroner Gary Watts said Sunday. SLED is investigating the death, Watts said.

Post and Courier: Rising S.C. college grad rates an encouraging sign (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130318/PC1002/130319326/1021/rising-sc-college-grad-rates-an-encouraging-sign>

Editorial

Graduating from college is important. Graduating from college in four or even six years is more important still. And newly released findings from The Chronicle of Higher Education and the national Student Clearinghouse show that South Carolina is excelling in the percentage of students in state colleges who do just that.

Post and Courier: Stop the high risks of high-speed chases (Opinion)
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130316/PC1002/130319437/1021/stop-the-high-risks-of-high-speed-chases>

Editorial

I need to preface my remarks by saying that I have always been a supporter of law enforcement in our community and that I have a great deal of respect for what they do and the difficulty of their jobs. That being said, I feel the need to say that with regard to the practice of conducting high-speed chases, enough is more than enough.

Associated Press: SCE&G issues warnings to customers about scams
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7Fnneym7

Staff Report

South Carolina Electric & Gas is warning customers of scam artists posing as company employees. The utility says it's received several reports of people portraying themselves as SCE&G employees over the phone. In several instances, the individuals ask customers to buy a payment card from a local convenience or drug store, then call back with the card's information for immediate bill payment.

Associated Press: SC elementary school warns parents about bats
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=yWYptWm4

Staff Report

Parents of children who attend a Greenville County elementary school are receiving warnings of bat sightings in the building. The Greenville County School District used an automated calling system to notify Fountain Inn Elementary parents about the bats appearing at the school again.

The State: Being bullied? Talk about it, youths advised
<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/18/2681632/being-bullied-talk-about-it-youths.html>

John Monk

Tianna Walker is only 17 but she held the crowd of some 100 at Finlay Park Sunday afternoon spellbound. "My whole life, I've been bullied," she said. "I've been called every name you can think of. . . . I want the word to get out about bullying, so maybe I can save someone's life who thought about committing suicide, like I did."

Associated Press: SC residents upset about Charlotte sewage

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=V5CXN40R

Staff Report

Some South Carolina residents are upset about sewage from Charlotte. The Charlotte Observer reported (<http://bit.ly/ZMBgbj>) that a University of North Carolina study found evidence that sludge used to fertilize fields can be unhealthy for people up to a mile away.

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Hyperlocal News

Post and Courier: Dorchester to bolt from Charleston Regional Development Alliance?

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130318/PC16/130319309/1005/dorchester-to-bolt-from-charleston-regional-development-alliance>

Bo Petersen

The partnership that makes up the Charleston Regional Development Alliance might be about to crack. Dorchester County Council members have asked staff for hard numbers and dollar figures on the return the county specifically gets from its \$170,000-plus annual payment to the alliance, a coordinating group for industry recruitment in the three counties that make up the Charleston region. That came after a lengthy discussion of concerns raised by a number of council members during a budget retreat last week.

Associated Press: Orangeburg officials concerned about 3 jail deaths

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=WLoUO6GD

Staff Report

The suicides of three inmates in less than four months have Orangeburg County leaders looking for ways to prevent such deaths at the jail in the future. The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg reported (<http://bit.ly/XPIe67>) that county leaders say they want to know if jail officials should do anything different.

Associated Press: 2 more Richland jail guards face firing

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

Staff Report

Two more Richland County jail guards have been recommended for termination in last month's beating of an inmate. County spokeswoman Stephany Snowden says the officers were placed on administrative leave without pay Friday and have been recommended for dismissal. Snowden says the guards are accused of knowing about the attack and failing to report it.

Associated Press: SC prison guard charged with domestic violence

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

Staff Report

A Department of Corrections officer has been charged with criminal domestic violence. Sheriff's deputies say 38-year-old James David Morgan is being held in the Lexington County jail.

Associated Press: SC man among leaders arrested in FL gambling probe

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tSnN7dtw

Mitch Weiss

Johnny Duncan knew how to work a room. Outgoing with a wide smile and a Southern drawl, he'd drape his arm around a stranger and ask for their backstory. So it was no surprise that during a visit to Florida two decades ago, the former pool hustler from South Carolina walked into a bingo hall and started chatting with the owner.

The State: Marina expansion stirs wave of opposition

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/18/2681626/marina-expansion-stirs-wave-of.html>

Tim Flach

A big fuss has erupted over a marina's effort to add space for a dozen more boats in a small cove on Lake Murray. The request by Windward Point Yacht Club is running into a wave of opposition from nearby homeowners who say it's too much in an area already congested with watercraft.

The State: Revitalization slowly spreads on West Columbia riverfront

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/18/2681608/revitalization-slowly-spreads.html>

Tim Flach

Billie Shaw-Hopkins is looking for a home near the riverfront in West Columbia even though it probably will require plenty of sweat to update it. The area is her choice because "I see it as up and coming," the insurance-office manager says.

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National News

Associated Press: Rise of Latino population blurs US racial lines

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/17/2680713/rise-of-latino-population-blurs.html>

Hope Yen

Welcome to the new off-white America. A historic decline in the number of U.S. whites and the fast growth of Latinos are blurring traditional black-white color lines, testing the limits of civil rights laws and reshaping political alliances as "whiteness" begins to lose its numerical dominance.

Post and Courier: Carnegie Mellon, NSA seek high school hackers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130317/PC1601/130319388/1005/carnegie-mellon-nsa-seek-high-school-hackers>

Kevin Begos

Bored with classes? Carnegie Mellon University and one of the government's top spy agencies want to interest high school students in a game of computer hacking. Their goal with "Toaster Wars" is to cultivate the nation's next generation of cyber warriors in offensive and defensive strategies. The free, online "high school hacking competition" is scheduled to run from April 26 to May 6, and any U.S. student or team in grades six through 12 can apply and participate.

Post and Courier: Parris Island leader says women can handle combat

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130316/PC16/130319393/1005/parris-island-leader-says-women-can-handle-combat>

Susanne M. Schafer

The first female Marine Corps general in charge of its tough-as-nails basic training site on Parris Island says she's confident women in the Corps will be able to handle combat. Brig. Gen. Loretta Reynolds says the Pentagon's lifting of the combat exclusion against women earlier this year means commanders will be able to "just use the talent that they have. Just use it where they need it. That's awesome."

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