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Governor Nikki Haley News

The State: Healthcare advocates debate SC's role in Medicaid expansion

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2697903/healthcare-advocates-debate-scs.html>

Joey Holleman

The S.C. House vote turning down Medicaid expansion didn't end the debate. Advocates on both sides of the issue spoke to a gathering of business leaders Thursday, offering much the same arguments for and against expansion of coverage of low-income adults in the state under the Affordable Care Act.

Note: Tony Keck, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services and an opponent of expansion, pledged this was going to be his last presentation in defense of Gov. Nikki Haley's position. "I'd really like us to spend a lot more time talking about what we're doing moving forward with the common ground we have," Keck said.

Greenville News: Editorial: Forget restrictions on food stamps (Opinion)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130329/OPINION/303290021/Editorial-Forget-restrictions-food-stamps>

Editorial

South Carolina has one of the highest obesity rates in the country, and it joins most of the South in having the fattest people in the country. All of that extra weight is killing people because obesity has been linked to diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke.

Note: The Haley administration appropriately is focusing on reducing obesity in a state where people have far too many health problems with many of those linked to obesity and poor eating habits. That is a noble goal.

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South Carolina News

The State: Time running out for free SC credit monitoring: Here's how to enroll

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2698135/enrollment-for-sc-hacking-credit.html>

Andy Shain

More than one-third of the 3.8 million consumers whose S.C. tax return information was stolen by hackers in September have enrolled for a free year of Experian credit monitoring offered by the state. Registration ends Sunday.

Associated Press: Biden to visit South Carolina for Easter weekend

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

Staff Report

The White House says Vice President Joe Biden is heading to South Carolina for Easter weekend. The vice president and his wife, Jill Biden, were to arrive Thursday evening in Kiawah Island, near Charleston. He's not planning any public events while he's in town.

Post and Courier: Vice President Joe Biden arriving in Charleston tonight

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130328/PC16/130329228/1006/vice-president-joe-biden-arriving-in-charleston-tonight>

Schuyler Kropf

Local drivers can expect traffic along the Charleston interstate routes into West Ashley and Johns Island to be held up later tonight as Vice President Joe Biden is expected in town. Biden is a regular visitor to Kiawah Island, including for Easter.

Post and Courier: Lavish lodging for vice president isn't cheap (Opinion)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130329/PC1002/130329215/1021/lavish-lodging-for-vice-president-isn-x2019-t-cheap>

Editorial

John Nance Garner acerbically described the vice presidency as not being worth "a bucket of warm spit." But then "Cactus Jack" served during a different era. In just two days in London and Paris, Joe Biden chalked up hotel bills topping \$1 million, in his official capacity as vice president.

Associated Press: SC Treasurer refuses to sign investment check

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1x6oqQwa

Staff Report

The South Carolina state treasurer is refusing to sign a check the state retirement fund wants to invest. The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/11UNYLE>) state Treasurer Curtis Loftis is refusing to sign a \$50 million check the commission that supervises the retirement fund wants to invest.

The State: SC Treasurer, state retirement commission battle over \$50M

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2698899/sc-treasurer-state-retirement.html>

Adam Beam

The commission that manages the state's \$26 billion retirement fund voted to invest \$50 million on Thursday, but state Treasurer Curtis Loftis is refusing to sign the check. Loftis wants proof the state will not overpay for fees before releasing the money. Retirement System Investment commissioners said they gave the treasurer an email with fee information, but Loftis wants it on paper.

The State: Discussion about gun violence worth having (Opinion)

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/29/2698437/bolton-discussion-about-gun-violence.html>

Warren Bolton

While I'd like to see an assault weapons ban as well as other measures aimed at controlling who can get guns and the fire power available to the man on the street, I'm also well-aware that the man on the street needs some fixing — of the heart and mind variety — if we're going to curb gun atrocities and other violence that's so pervasive in society. Violence is deeply engrained in the American culture, from how we assault one another verbally (just consider our political rhetoric or the way some of us talk to our kids) to domestic and sexual abuse to gun and gang violence; we're among the most violent nations on the planet.

Associated Press: SC to release state unemployment for February

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=tCRbhi1K

Meg Kinnard

South Carolina's workforce agency is releasing the state's unemployment picture for February. The state Department of Employment and Workforce is set to reveal the state's new jobless figures on Friday.

Post and Courier: DHEC to issue daily ground-level ozone report

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130329/PC16/130329169/1177/dhec-to-issue-daily-ground-level-ozone-report>

Lauren Sausser

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will issue daily ground-level ozone reports starting Sunday. "During the warmer months, ground-level ozone is our state's most widespread air quality concern," said Myra Reece, chief of DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality, in a statement.

Associated Press: Maine joins Indian lawsuit before Supreme Court

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=35i5RLwG

Glenn Adams

Maine is joining South Carolina and several other states in defending a federal law that deals with Indian adoption rights and will be a central topic in a case that goes before the U.S. Supreme Court next month, . Attorney General Janet Mills announced Thursday. Mills said the state signed onto an amicus brief in the case defending the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. She described the facts of the case as "particularly outrageous," and said the case has implications in Maine where a process is under way to investigate systematic removal of tribal children from their households prior to passage of the Indian Child Welfare law.

Greenville News: Envision SC: Charleston Mayor Joe Riley won't accept defeat

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130329/NEWS09/303290012/Envision-SC-Charleston-Mayor-Joe->

Riley-won-t-accept-defeat

Making Your Voice Heard

Mayor Joseph P. Riley has served as the city's leader since 1975 and during his tenure he has helped usher in dynamic changes in the economic, cultural and social landscape of his hometown. Recently, Mayor Riley sat down with Phil Noble to offer his unique perspective on what South Carolina must do to truly be "World Class."

Associated Press: Bostic calls Sanford compromised candidate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CCU6cA53

Bruce Smith

In a debate days before the GOP runoff for a vacant South Carolina congressional seat, former Charleston County Council member Curtis Bostic on Thursday called former Gov. Mark Sanford a compromised candidate who would give Democrats a chance to win the 1st District seat that Republicans have long controlled. "Trust is a critical issue and it has become a critical issue in this race," Bostic said during a televised debate sponsored by the state Republican Party. "A compromised candidate is not what we need. This seat needs to be held for the conservative cause."

Island Packet: Sanford is 'compromised,' runoff rival argues in debate

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/29/2698930/sanford-is-compromised-runoff.html>

Gina Smith

In the first debate between the two Republicans vying to represent the 1st Congressional District, candidate Curtis Bostic characterized Mark Sanford as a "compromised candidate" because of his 2009 secret exit from the state and a "Mr. No" with a record of failing to bring people together to accomplish reforms. Sanford pushed back, saying Bostic voted in favor of Charleston County budgets that increased spending and missing meetings during his time on county council there.

Post and Courier: Bostic attacks Sanford's political effectiveness in Charleston debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130328/PC16/130329209/1006/bostic-attacks-sanford-x2019-s-political-effectiveness-in-charleston-debate>

Robert Behre

The issue of whether former Gov. Mark Sanford is a compromised candidate because of his highly publicized 2009 scandal arose yet again Thursday during an hour-long 1st Congressional District debate. But it was Sanford's relative effectiveness as both a three-term congressman and two-term governor that his Republican rival, former Charleston County Councilman Curtis Bostic, dwelled on more.

Post and Courier: Sanford, Bostic agree on policy, but not on each other's records

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130329/PC16/130329180/1165/sanford-bostic-agree-on-policy-but-not-on-each-other-x2019-s-records>

Robert Behre

The issue of whether former Gov. Mark Sanford is a compromised candidate because of his highly publicized 2009 scandal arose yet again Thursday during an hour-long 1st Congressional District Republican debate. But it was Sanford's relative effectiveness as a three-term congressman and two-term governor that his Republican rival, former Charleston County Councilman Curtis Bostic, dwelled on more.

Associated Press: Bostic, Sanford meet in 1st District debate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=QzArT6V4

Bruce Smith

Former Charleston County Councilman Curtis Bostic says Mark Sanford is a compromised candidate who will give the Democrats the chance to win South Carolina's vacant 1st District congressional seat. Bostic said during a debate in Charleston on Thursday the issue is about keeping the seat for the Republicans.

Associated Press: AAA predicts gas price drop to boost Easter travel

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1OXe6nS5

Staff Report

A drop in gasoline prices may mean more travel in South Carolina during the Easter holiday weekend. AAA Carolinas says the average cost of a gallon of gas in the state has fallen 18 cents since Feb. 22, to \$3.44.

Associated Press: Forecast: Active hurricane season forecast

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

Staff Report

Forecaster William Gray says he expects a very active hurricane season, but he's not yet giving likely numbers of named storms, hurricanes and major hurricanes. Gray told hundreds of people at the National Hurricane Conference on Thursday that the first numeric predictions will come out April 10.

The State: Physicians added as SC state agency consultants

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2698684/physicians-added-as-sc-state-agency.html>

Joey Holleman

Three physicians have been added as consulting medical directors of the state Department of Health and Human Services to provide advice on pay-for-performance initiatives, clinical integration, hot spot interventions and quality improvement. The three who will consult with the agency's office of medical direction include Dr. Williams Jennings Jr., an emergency medicine physician with Palmetto Health; Dr. Michael Musci Jr., medical director of managed care for the Greenville Hospital System; and Dr. Philip Mubarak, founder of Carolina Pediatrics and an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

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Hyperlocal News

Associated Press: SC trooper honored for saving 2-year-old's life

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=n737T9mP

Staff Report

A state trooper from Florence is the South Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year for saving a life when he thought he was just going to be writing a ticket for running a red light. Senior Trooper William McInville was honored Thursday for rescuing a choking 2-year-old while on patrol in June.

The State: Florence patrolman named Trooper of the Year for saving toddler's life

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2698249/florence-patrolman-named-trooper.html>

R. Darren Price

When state Highway Patrol Senior Trooper William McInville stopped a car for running a red light and nearly causing a wreck in Florence County on June, he didn't think he would be saving a life. But when the car's driver and passenger got out, one of them holding a 2-year-old toddler who wasn't breathing, his plans changed.

Associated Press: Columbia mayor hosting healthy Easter egg hunt

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=510VkFaR

Staff Report

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is incorporating healthy activity into this year's Easter holiday. On Friday, Benjamin and his family are hosting a Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt at the Drew Wellness Center.

Post and Courier: Who needs moving men when you have Isle of Palms firefighters? (Opinion)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130328/PC16/130329188/1006/brian-hicks-column-who-needs-moving-men-when-you-have-isle-of-palms-firefighters>

Editorial

Got a job that's too big or too messy to handle yourself? Need to demolish that old deck? Uproot a plant? Just call the friendly folks on the Isle of Palms. That's right — no more straining your back carrying furniture up and down the stairs of your raised beach house. No more messy stains on your clothes from lugging out the grill when — or if — spring arrives.

Post and Courier: Firm withdraws bid for Charleston airport contract amid inquiry

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130328/PC16/130329265/1006/firm-withdraws-bid-for-charleston-airport-contract-amid-inquiry>

Warren Wise

A firm competing for a contract at Charleston International Airport withdrew its offer Wednesday after questions about Charleston County Aviation Authority board members' involvement in recommending subcontractors in its bid. Columbia-based Michael Baker Corp., the firm hired by the airport as its program manager for the \$200 million makeover of the airport's terminal building, decided to withdraw as one of two bidders for the construction administration and inspection contract, the firm announced during an airport committee meeting.

Associated Press: Statues in Camden honoring 2 native sons

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=4EQNvXnF

Staff Report

Two new statues are honoring the accomplishments of two Camden natives. The State newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/YByAxj>) that the bronze statues of Baseball Hall of Famer Larry Doby and financier Bernard Baruch are being unveiled during a celebration on Friday.

Associated Press: SC agent accused of giving cellphone to inmate

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rxIAZOO9

Staff Report

A state Probation, Parole and Pardon Services agent has been arrested after authorities say he gave a cellphone to a South Carolina inmate. The State Law Enforcement Division says 37-year-old Tyson Maurice Milhouse was arrested Wednesday and charged with giving contraband to a prisoner and misconduct in office.

Post and Courier: Judge expected to decide whether to set bail on accused serial rapist Dale Richardson

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130329/PC16/130329192/1177/judge-expected-to-decide-whether-to-set-bail-on-accused-serial-rapist-dale-richardson>

Natalie Caula

Former pastor and accused serial rapist Dale Richardson has been in jail for nearly two years while he awaits trial. His attorneys want him out on bail, but prosecutors say he would be a danger to the community. Both sides made their arguments during a hearing in Dorchester County on March 13. One of the three women Richardson is accused of raping in 2010 was in the courtroom in opposition to any bail that could lead to his release, according to prosecutors.

Associated Press: Wozniacki slated to play in Family Circle

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=BTGj0sPw

Staff Report

Former Family Circle Cup champion Caroline Wozniacki is returning to the tournament she won two years ago. Family Circle Cup organizers said Thursday that Wozniacki was given a wild card entry into the tournament's main draw. The clay-court event starts Monday.

Associated Press: Darlington announces Nationwide sponsors

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=7Au6pzKf

Staff Report

Darlington Raceway says its sponsors from last year have returned for the Nationwide Series event May 10. The track said Thursday that Sports Clips Haircuts and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States would be title sponsors for the Help A Hero 200 at Darlington. The organizations say the partnership helps raise awareness about the struggles of many military families and VFW's mission supporting active-duty military, veterans and their families.

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National News

Greenville News: Broader market reaches new mark

S&P 500 joins Dow in record-setting 2013

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130329/BUSINESS/303290014/Broader-market-reaches-new-mark>

Woody White

The Standard & Poors 500, the bellwether broad-market average, pushed through to rarefied air Thursday as stocks headed into a long weekend on another winning note. The S&P 500 needed almost 5 1/2 years to beat its old pre-recession closing high and finished four points ahead of its record with a six-point gain to 1,569.

Associated Press: Boeing CEO says 787 is 'very close' to flying

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=CrENDse2

Scott Mayerowitz

Boeing CEO Jim McNerney said his company is "very close" to getting its troubled 787 Dreamliner jet back

flying again. Two incidents involving batteries on 787s led the Federal Aviation Administration and regulators in other countries to ground the planes in January. Boeing is testing a redesign of the battery system

USA Today: Boeing CEO: Dreamliners will carry passengers soon

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130329/BUSINESS/303290013/Boeing-CEO-Dreamliners-will-carry-passengers-soon>

Bart Jansen

Boeing CEO James McNerney said Thursday that testing of the 787 Dreamliner's redesigned lithium-ion batteries will be completed within "the next several days" and that the plane will carry passengers "sooner rather than later." McNerney told a U.S. Chamber of Commerce aviation summit here that the battery problems that grounded the fleet of Dreamliners in mid-January have been "frustrating."

Associated Press: McCrory donating \$8,000 in tainted money

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

Staff Report

Gov. Pat McCrory's campaign is giving another \$8,000 to charity, the third time his campaign has unloaded contributions from people facing criminal charges related to sweepstakes cafes. McCrory spokeswoman Kim Genardo said Wednesday the Republican governor's campaign would rid itself of \$8,000 brought to their attention by The Associated Press this week. The cash was donated last year by John Patrick Fannin and his wife, who live in Little River, S.C.

McClatchy: N.C. Gov. McCrory eliminates Latino affairs office, raising community concerns

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/28/2698470/gov-mccrory-eliminates-latino.html>

Franco Ordonez and John Frank

North Carolina's Latino advocates are voicing alarm following the governor's decision to eliminate the state's office for Latino affairs. The closing of the Office of Hispanic/Latino affairs was sudden and caught many by surprise. The move appears to have exacerbated the already tense relationship between Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and the Latino community.

Associated Press: Drone industry worries about privacy backlash

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/03/29/2699088/drone-industry-worries-about-privacy.html>

Joan Lowy

It's a good bet that in the not-so-distant future aerial drones will be part of Americans' everyday lives, performing countless useful functions. A far cry from the killing machines whose missiles incinerate terrorists, these generally small, unmanned aircraft will help farmers more precisely apply water and pesticides to crops, saving money and reducing environmental impacts. They'll help police departments find missing people, reconstruct traffic accidents and act as lookouts for SWAT teams. They'll alert authorities to people stranded on rooftops by hurricanes and monitor evacuation flows.

Washington Post: Fed agrees on cutting buying

Two sides see risk, slowdown as reasons for scaling back bond purchase program

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130329/BUSINESS/303290020/Fed-agrees-cutting-buying>

Ylan Q. Mui

Inside the Federal Reserve, consensus is growing over the need to dial back the central bank's \$85 billion-a-month bond-buying program — but for very different reasons. It boils down to two sides: hawks, who want to curtail "quantitative easing" programs because of the risks they create, and doves, who see evidence that they're working well enough at stimulating growth that they might soon be slowed down. First, let's consider the hawks, who worry that the Fed is doing too much to juice the economy. They want to scale back on QE because they are worried that the program's unintended consequences are outweighing any benefits.

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