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Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Sweet harmony on deeper harbor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131027/PC1002/131029455/1021/sweet-harmony-on-deeper-harbor>

Editorial

The first thing that Democrats and Republicans in Washington have readily agreed upon in a long time could be very good news for South Carolina. By a remarkable 417-3 margin, the House of Representatives Wednesday approved a bipartisan water bill that would expedite the deepening of Charleston Harbor's shipping channel to 50 feet. The achievement calls for two celebrations: South Carolina's faster, more efficient path toward accommodating the world's largest cargo ships; and harmony in the House that citizens have been hankering for. The state's congressional delegation is to be commended for its unanimity of support for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

The State (Guest Column): Green School Initiative Is The Right Kind Of Government Involvement

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kAAa6p83

Katrina Shealy

One of the reasons I ran for office is that I firmly believe that government - local government, especially - still can have a positive impact on people's lives. Recently, I joined the Green Schools Caucus, which is dedicated to encouraging the construction and renovation of schools to make them more energy efficient and sustainable. Now before you call me a "tree hugger," hear me out. I joined the Green Schools Caucus because I believe our two most important resources are our children and our tax dollars, and the caucus is focused on both.

Island Packet: Beaufort County on right track with school zones

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/27/2756582/beaufort-county-on-right-track.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

Redrawing school attendance zones can be one of the most difficult -- and controversial -- tasks school boards must do. Parents and students are rightfully attached to their schools. Every precaution must be taken to ensure the redrawing process is fair and sensible. Families and community members deserve a chance to be heard. The district also must make the most of the school space it already has. To do otherwise is unfair to taxpayers who foot school construction bills. The Beaufort County Board of Education is off to a good start as it begins work on the difficult job of reworking its schools' attendance lines.

Florence Morning News: When it comes to penny tax, no easy answers

http://www.scnow.com/opinion/editorials/article_982d2aec-3e78-11e3-af1f-0019bb30f31a.html

Editorial

The decision before the voters on Nov. 5 to renew the capital project sales tax for another seven years is not going to be easy. We've been chewing on it for nearly a year now, and we still see merit in the arguments both for and against it. To refresh, the tax is an option made available to all counties by the S.C. Legislature. If approved by voters in a referendum, it adds a 1 percent tax onto the cost of most goods — food and some others are exempt — that the county can then use for capital projects outlined in the aforementioned referendum. Florence County voters approved the tax in 2006 by a 55-45 percent margin. As the margin at the polls in 2006 suggests, a re-issuance of the tax was by no means a slam dunk, and the past few months have done little to improve those odds.

The State: In Hacked SC, A Year Of Living Dangerously

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UOx1tqB0

Cindi Scoppe

A confluence of cybersecurity buzz-generators - entrepreneurial, serendipitous and opportunistic - conspired to thrust the state Revenue Department's failure to protect our most sensitive financial information back into the spotlight this week. The entrepreneurial reminder came when Experian, the credit bureau that the state gave an emergency \$12 million contract last fall to provide credit monitoring for a year, sent out another round of come-ons trying to convince South Carolinians to buy its service. The notices were emailed three days before we could start signing up for the monitoring that we already paid for through our state taxes, provided by a cheaper contract that the state negotiated with CSIdentity Corp. A contract Experian had refused even to bid on.

The State: Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin has been effective; should be re-elected

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3059024/editorial-columbia-mayor-steve.html#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

We have not always agreed with Mayor Steve Benjamin, but he has been a smart, effective — although at times inflexible — leader who has helped cajole, nudge and drag Columbia into position to accomplish great things. Voters should give Mr. Benjamin the responsibility of helping the city capitalize on the many opportunities before it. He faces City Councilman Moe Baddourah and businessman Larry Sybolt in the Nov. 5 election Mr. Benjamin entered office in 2010 with a bold vision for Columbia as “the most talented, educated and entrepreneurial city in the Southeast,” a hopeful message at a moment when the city was awash in red ink, in search of yet another police chief and lacking direction.

Times and Democrat: Term limits should stay in voter hands

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/editorial/term-limits-should-stay-in-voter-hands/article_879d3a36-3e01-11e3-9db6-0019bb2963f4.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Long-serving politicians; OUR OPINION: Mandatory limits no guarantee of good government. The candidates trying to unseat U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham are allied with the tea party wing of the Republican Party that claims the incumbent is too liberal and too willing to compromise with Democrats. One of the contenders, Nancy Mace, who is most widely known as the first woman to graduate from The Citadel, is making the case that Graham should unseat himself, resurrecting the argument that term limits are the key to better performance by lawmakers in Washington.

South Carolina News:

The State: Much-praised company guilty of repeat environmental violations

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3061607/much-praised-company-guilty-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

McCall Farms drew plenty of praise last year when the family-owned business announced a \$10.6 million expansion that would create 80 jobs in Florence County. But for all of its economic impact on the Pee Dee, McCall Farms is a repeat violator of environmental laws in South Carolina. The business is among the state's top 20 companies and governments with the most repeat violations since the 1990s that also have had violations recently.

Note: “Announcements like this one show we are on the right track with our economic development efforts,” Gov. Nikki Haley said in July 2012, echoing proud comments from local politicians and state agriculture officials.

The State: Eco laws broken repeatedly by businesses, government agencies in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3061455/eco-laws-broken-repeatedly-by.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

South Carolina's effort to enforce environmental laws hasn't stopped companies and government agencies from repeatedly breaking rules to protect the air, land and water during the past two decades. Nearly 25 percent of the 4,700 businesses and governments cited for violating environmental laws since 1991 have done so multiple times, and in some cases, their failures to follow the rules are continuing today, according to civil enforcement records analyzed by The State newspaper. Repeat offenders in South Carolina include power companies, local wastewater utilities, military bases, private shipyards, national garbage corporations, major cement factories, farm companies and public universities, according to Department of Health and Environmental Control records.

Greenville News: Businesses weigh impact of Affordable Care Act

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131027/SPECIAL09/310270008/Businesses-weigh-impact->

[Affordable-Care-Act](#)

Liv Osby

Greenville restaurateur Carl Sobocinski likes the idea of universal health care and has offered coverage to his employees since he started out. “As a business owner — an American — I’m all for the general principle of all Americans being covered,” the owner of Soby’s and six other restaurants told The Greenville News. But the structure of the Affordable Care Act is driving his insurance costs up as much as 75 percent, and that has him stressing over whether to trim expenses, raise menu prices, or maybe cut some employees to less than 30 hours a week. “I have to figure out what to do just like when any of my other costs rise,” he said. “A small business can’t absorb tens of thousands of dollars of costs like that.”

Anderson Independent: Use of 'big data' spilling into political campaigns

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/26/use-of-big-data-spilling-into-political/>

Vince Jackson

A Clemson University professor says a developing technological trend can determine which paint color to look for when buying a used car or who will win an election. Bruce Ransom, a Clemson political science professor, believes the phenomenon dubbed “big data” will soon change the way political campaigns are run as well as the way people live. Big data refers to the enormous amount of information that can be crunched into vast data sets, instantly analyzed, then used to draw conclusions about behavior. The use of marketing data techniques is emerging as a science that can be applied to almost anything. Experts in the field of big data say it is on a par with the development and explosive use of the Internet.

The State: SC House race pits legislator’s son vs. small-town mayor

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3060462/sc-house-race-pits-legislators.html#storylink=cpy>

Adam Beam

The son of a powerful politician and the mayor of a small town will face each other in a special election Tuesday for House District 93. The district, which includes portions of Lexington, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties, was represented by Harry Ott, the House minority leader who resigned in June to take a job in the Obama Administration. Now, Harry Ott’s son, Russell, is trying to replace his father in the S.C. House. He is opposed by Charlie Stoudemire, the mayor of the tiny Town of Woodford in Orangeburg County, who is trying a second time to win the seat – hoping for better luck against the younger Ott.

National journal: Tim Scott Could Have Been Ted Cruz. Here's Why He Passed.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/tim-scott-could-have-been-ted-cruz-here-s-why-he-passed-20131024>

Ben Terris

“Y’all make me want to preach,” Sen. Tim Scott said, walking animatedly on the stage at the Values Voters Summit early this month. “I’ll tell ya what. I’m getting kinda excited over here. Can I get an amen?” The crowd of religious, conservative, and mostly older white voters hollered back. It may be the closest thing any of them ever get to a black church—and it was a dream come true. But what’s even more interesting is that ever since Scott was appointed to the Senate 10 months ago, he’s also made it clear he knows how to stay out of the limelight—which was not necessarily how it had to be. He sits in the old seat of former Sen. and tea-party godfather Jim DeMint and has been cited by Sen. Ted Cruz as part of the “new generation of great leaders” in the upper chamber. And although his ideological stances are in line with those of the junior senator from Texas, Scott still comes across as the anti-Cruz.

Post and Courier: Under Jim DeMint, the Heritage Foundation goes from think-tank to conservatives’ weapon

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20131026/PC16/131029428/1006/conservative-think-tank-a-weapon-with-demint>

Robert Behre and Schuyler Kropf

One of the first hints that Jim DeMint was going to shake up Washington came last winter during an address to fellow conservatives in Dallas. DeMint had just resigned his U.S. Senate seat to take the reins of the previously wonkish Heritage Foundation, a group known for its conservative research papers. In the audience was Clemson University political scientist Dave Woodard, a longtime DeMint friend and a co-author who was on sabbatical at Southern Methodist University. Woodard recalled hearing DeMint foreshadow a bolder vision for one of the country’s oldest Republican-aligned think tanks.

The State: Lee Bandy remembered as a man of faith, a giant of journalism

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3061587/lee-bandy-remembered-as-a-man.html#storylink=cpy>

Carolyn Click

Lee Bandy, the influential political journalist who defined the landscape of South Carolina politics for four decades, was remembered Saturday as a man of deep Christian faith who relished nothing better than a good story and the love and company of his family and friends. "I always had a feeling he was going to have a lot of adventures," his nephew Greg Bandy said in an eloquent, endearing eulogy at a morning memorial service. "He was just the best kind of uncle you could have as a little boy, because he liked shooting guns, singing crazy songs and lighting large fireworks as much as I did." Several hundred mourners gathered in the beautiful old First Presbyterian Church in downtown Columbia to remember Bandy, "the life of the party" whose easy charm and stellar political relationships made him a formidable force over his 40-year career at The State newspaper.

Greenville News: Clemson students get help to keep scholarships

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131027/NEWS09/310230075/Clemson-students-get-help-keep-scholarships>

Ron Barnett

High school was a breeze for Katie Burn. Even taking Advanced Placement courses, which offer college credit, she barely cracked a book outside of class, she says. The graduate of J.L. Mann Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology came face to face with reality when she got to Clemson University. The amount of effort it takes to cut it in college, she discovered, "doesn't compare" to the way things were in high school. Her choice: Either get with the program in a hurry and keep up a B average or face losing her \$5,000-a-year LIFE Scholarship.

Greenville News: Duke plans natural gas plant

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131027/NEWS/310270009/Duke-plans-natural-gas-plant>

Rudolph Bell

Duke Energy's plans to switch from burning coal at a longtime Anderson County power plant include a new natural gas plant at the site that would generate 750 megawatts of electricity by the summer of 2017. The Charlotte-based power company announced that it has asked South Carolina regulators for permission to build the plant at its Lee Steam Station along the Saluda River in Belton, though no final decision has been made. Duke spokesman Ryan Mosier said the plant would employ 25 full-time workers after construction. He said it was too early to say how much the plant would cost or whether it would employ natural gas-burning turbines made by General Electric in Greenville.

Greenville News: Study ranks South Carolina fifth for violent crime

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20131027/NEWS/310270012/Study-ranks-South-Carolina-fifth-violent-crime>

David Dykes

South Carolina has the nation's fifth-highest violent crime rate, with an apparent relationship between lower income and less education and higher crime rates, according to a new study and a justice policy expert. In its analysis, 24/7 Wall St. said South Carolina had nearly 559 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, ranking behind only Tennessee, Nevada, Alaska, and New Mexico. South Carolina's 18.3 percent poverty rate is the ninth worst in the country, and well above the U.S. average of 15.9 percent, 24/7 Wall St. said in its study.

Local News:

Times and Democrat: Delays at at end, work on upgrading I-95/U.S. 301 interchange starts Nov. 6

http://thetandd.com/business/development-hub-delays-at-at-end-work-on-upgrading-i/article_58de727a-3dd2-11e3-b1a3-001a4bcf887a.html

Gene Zaleski

The much-anticipated design plans and construction schedule for the upgrade to the Interstate 95/U.S. Highway 301 interchange were presented Friday afternoon to Orangeburg County community and government leaders. After years of planning, work is scheduled to begin Nov. 6 on a \$41 million upgrade to the interchange in eastern Orangeburg County.

Note: In March, Gov. Nikki Haley announced McFalls was the ambassador for the county during the state's annual industry appreciation week.

Island Packet: School district's five-year plan targets leadership, personalized learning

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/10/26/2758329/school-districts-five-year-plan.html#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

After hearing from the public, parents and educators, the Beaufort County School District has put its five-year strategic plan in the hands of the superintendent and his top lieutenants. A steering committee of roughly 50 teachers, administrators, School Improvement Council members and board of education members continued the planning work they started in July on the final day of a two-day work session Saturday. At the full-day meeting, the committee heard presentations from the five action teams charged with crafting the specifics of the plan.

Associated Press: SRS employees affected by ID theft incident

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2013/10/26/5342108/srs-employees-affected-by-id-theft.html#storylink=cpy>

Employees at the Savannah River Site are among those affected by a cyber-theft of more than 100,000 identities of past and present employees of the U.S. Department of Energy. Department spokesman James Giusti confirmed that Savannah River employees had been affected but did not have an exact number. The Aiken Standard reports (<http://bit.ly/HiEUrC>) Saturday that the Energy Department learned about the incident in July and notified employees Oct. 15. Officials say names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth were all compromised.

The State: Columbia mayoral candidate likes his underdog role in campaign

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3061577/columbia-mayoral-candidate-likes.html#storylink=cpy>

Clif LeBlanc

He's the long-shot candidate and ex-cop who has built his mayoral campaign around the hot topic of public safety in Columbia. Larry Sypolt and his small band of volunteers are running his first race for public office on the strength of Sypolt's 14-year law enforcement career at a time when talk of violent crime and street gangs is reaching a fever pitch. Strengthening the Columbia Police Department has become so central to Sypolt's campaign that it was the deciding factor in his late endorsement of a strong-mayor system for city government.

Times and Democrat: Quality of life focal point in Holly Hill mayoral race

http://thetandd.com/news/local/quality-of-life-focal-point-in-holly-hill-mayoral-race/article_b2636df8-3ebf-11e3-940c-0019bb2963f4.html

Dionne Gleaton

Industrial recruitment and the continued restoration of downtown are among the issues which the mayoral candidates in Holly Hill want to address to improve the quality of life. Incumbent Mayor William R. Johnson, who was elected in 2009 as the city's first African-American mayor, says he wants to continue the development of existing projects, including a new municipal/multiplex building in town. His challenger, businessman William Marvin "Marv" Brown Jr., says beautification and improving recreational areas for youth are among his priorities. Council District 4 incumbent Henry Louis Damon filed for re-election and is being challenged by Cynthia Fuller.

Aiken Standard: Northside revitalization focuses on improving infrastructure

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20131027/AIK0101/131029549/1007/AIK0101/northside-revitalization-focuses-on-improving-infrastructure>

Maayan Schechter

Communication remains a key priority for Emory Langston, whose new job with the City of Aiken brings a focus to the Northside Revitalization Initiative and other special projects. The Northside Revitalization Initiative encompasses improving neighborhoods such as Crosland Park, Asheton Oaks, Toole Hill, Governor Aiken Park, Chesterfield North and Edgefield. Other aspects of the project include recreational opportunities and community gardens. The budget for the plan decreased about \$26,000 from last year, which includes new infrastructure, repair of existing homes and emergency repairs, according to the budget.

Anderson Independent: State plan calls for four Anderson County bridges to be replaced

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2013/oct/26/state-plan-calls-for-four-anderson-county-to-be/>

Nikie Mayo

Four Anderson County bridges are up for major repairs or replacement as part of a \$250 million statewide maintenance plan proposed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. All told, the maintenance plan will allow for the repair or replacement of 90 bridges in the state, according to the transportation department. In Anderson County, plans call for replacing the Boscobel Road Bridge over Three and Twenty Creek and the Shiloh Church Road Bridge over the Rocky River in Anderson. The Mike McConnell Avenue Bridge over Wilson Creek in Iva will also get an overhaul. The Rainey Road Bridge over Big Generostee Creek in Starr is also on the list of those scheduled for maintenance.

The State: Columbia H-taxes: Should everyone who asks get money?

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/10/26/3061429/columbia-h-taxes-should-everyone.html#storylink=cpy>

Cassie Cope

Columbia provides a lot of activities for its residents and tourists – from a raucous street party on St. Patrick's Day in Five Points to a family-friendly ice skating rink during the holiday season. The city manages the range of events when City Council decides which of the hundreds of organizations and events get support through hospitality taxes, a 2 percent tax on prepared meals that is given to groups that show they can attract tourists. But lately, Council has struggled to improve the way it doles out the approximately \$10.4 million, and it doesn't abide by its own procedures.

Times and Democrat: Small turnout expected for Tuesday special election in District 93

http://thetandd.com/news/local/small-turnout-expected-for-tuesday-special-election-in-district/article_6ce661de-3ebc-11e3-888a-0019bb2963f4.html

Martha Rose Brown

There's one year left on the unexpired term for the S.C. House District 93 seat, and voters in a tri-county area will select the candidate to fill the seat this Tuesday, Oct. 29. The seat was previously held by former House Minority Leader Harry L. Ott Jr., a Democrat who served in the legislature for 15 years before stepping down to become the state executive director of the federal Farm Service Agency. District 93 is comprised of all of Calhoun County and portions of Orangeburg and Lexington counties. According to Shayla Jenkins, Calhoun County director of voter registration and elections, 129 absentee ballots had been cast as of Friday afternoon.

National News:

Associated Press: Cuccinelli tests conservatism Va. governor race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268798/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1zYzyHKb

Philip Elliott

Ken Cuccinelli's campaign for governor of Virginia has always been a test of whether a deeply conservative Republican could win in a swing-voting state. For months, the attorney general - known outside his state for mounting the first-in-the-nation legal challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law - was locked in a competitive race with Democrat Terry McAuliffe as both candidates sought to court an ideologically diverse crop of voters, moderates and women among them. Now with polls showing the Republican trailing with time running out and money drying up, Cuccinelli has started emphasizing his far-right credentials in hopes of firing up enough tea partyers and social conservatives to engineer a come-from-behind victory in what's expected to be a low-participation election Nov. 5.

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