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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Graham a filibuster fan

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141123/PC1603/141129873>

Don't count South Carolina's Lindsey Graham among those who think the filibuster should be relegated to the past. The Republican wants the Senate to go back to its old rules, where members can filibuster the president's nominees.

Gov. Haley touts South Carolina: Gov. Nikki Haley is in the midst of a 10-day trade mission in her ancestral homeland, India, trying to sell companies and investors on the benefits of doing business in South Carolina.

Businesses for immigration reform: While many conservatives railed against President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration last week, some South Carolina business groups had a different message they wanted to convey.

Thanks, but no thanks: The ever-persistent issue of the state's crumbling roads looms over South Carolina's lawmakers for the upcoming legislative session.

The State: How SC's governor became India's media star

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829440/the-buzz-how-scs-governor-became.html>

Andrew Shain

A U.S. governor of Indian descent returning to her parents' birthplace was major news in the world's second-most-populous nation over the past two weeks. During her 10-day trade mission to recruit businesses and tourists, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was a constant presence in the Indian press.

Note: "We are here to give our respects. I am not here as a governor," Haley said, wearing traditional Indian clothing. "I had heard lots of special things from my parents. ... I feel very humbled and very honored to have been here. It took me 40 years, but it was worth the wait."

Note: "We get that even in South Carolina," she said. "They have always been interested in what we've done in South Carolina, even when I was a (S.C.) House member as well as governor."

Note: "I knew we were going to be dealing with a very enthusiastic press corps here. It's a lot. I think, in numbers, the press is a lot bigger (than in the United States)."

The State: Confederate flag still divides whites, blacks in SC, Winthrop poll finds

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829567/exclusive-confederate-flag-still.html>

Jamie Self

The Confederate flag remains a racially divisive symbol in South Carolina more than a decade after a bitter feud ended with it being moved to the State House's grounds from atop its dome. Most whites say the rebel banner should continue flying on the State House grounds; most African Americans say it should be removed, according to an exclusive Winthrop poll asked for The State.

Note: During a gubernatorial debate in October, Haley said corporate chief executives never mention the flag to her as a concern. The daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley added the state has come a long way in improving its image on racial issues.

Note: "We really kind of fixed all that when you elected the first Indian-American female governor, when we appointed the first African-American U.S. senator," Haley said. "That sent a huge message."

Post and Courier: S.C. prosecutors say state funding shortage puts criminal cases, public at risk

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141122/PC16/141129754>

Glenn Smith

A shortage of prosecutors has left South Carolina struggling to keep up with thousands of cases awaiting trial, delaying justice for victims and increasing the risk suspects will commit additional crimes while free on bail, according to area solicitors.

Note: Doug Mayer, spokesman for Gov. Nikki Haley, said "the role our state's prosecutors play in keeping our citizens safe and criminals behind bars can't be overstated," and the governor has consistently recommended increased resources for public safety. But he stopped short of saying how much might be in the pipeline next year.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: More evidence on need for ethics reform

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141123/PC1002/141129738>

Editorial

Former state senator Robert Ford's recent indictment on charges of mispending campaign funds might encourage the idea that the current system, giving legislative committees authority over ethics complaints, is working.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Lawmakers want to give road problem to the counties

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141123/OPINION/411231010/1128?Title=Lawmakers-want-to-give-road-problem-to-the-counties>

Editorial

State leaders are looking at a tried and true method of fixing their road problem — passing the responsibility on to the counties. South Carolina has a massive infrastructure problem. Work on roads and bridges was deferred during the Great Recession, and now all that delayed work is adding up.

Rock Hill Herald: After court ruling on S.C. schools, legislature needs to act

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/22/6555236/court-ruling-on-schools-is-welcome.html?sp=/100/105/>

Editorial

It took 21 years for a court ruling that said South Carolina is not providing an adequate education to children in poor school districts. Let's hope it doesn't take another two decades for the Legislature to come up with a solution. On Nov. 12, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled on a case initially filed by 39 school districts in 1993 seeking equity in state funding for education.

The State: Elected public bodies seeking pay raises should fully inform public

http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3827615_editorial-elected-public-bodies.html?rh=1

Editorial

ANYTIME elected officials seek to raise their pay it's imperative that they do so openly and allow taxpayers, who are picking up the tab, sufficient time to digest the proposed increases and provide input. That's not what Cayce City Council did when it recently boosted its salary significantly, or what the Lexington-Richland 5 and Richland 1 school boards did when they raised their pay last year.

Times and Democrat: Voters content with GOP, but let's look ahead

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/voters-content-with-gop-but-let-s-look-ahead/article_29e078e2-72a6-11e4-8ec9-1bd2970dbb6d.html

Editorial

THE ISSUE: Aftermath of 2014 election; OUR OPINION: Poll results not surprising, Sellers' assessment is. The latest Winthrop Poll confirms what South Carolina voters stated emphatically on Election Day: Republicans are in charge in South Carolina.

Island Packet: Court makes right call in school funding case

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/23/3448508/court-makes-right-call-in-school.html?sp=/99/342/1750/>

Editorial

After 21 years, a legal battle waged by more than two dozen S.C. school districts accusing the state of South Carolina of failing to provide a "minimally adequate" education for its poor and rural students has been decided. The state Supreme Court, in a 3-2 ruling, sided with the districts and upheld an earlier Circuit Court decision that the state has failed to meet its constitutional obligation to fund these schools.

The State: Legislators' first response to SC Supreme Court order should be consolidating school districts

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/23/3827597/scoppe-legislators-first-response.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scoppe

SOUTH CAROLINA has 46 counties and 81 school districts, and if you combined the 30 smallest districts, the new mega district still would have 20,000 fewer students than the Greenville County district. Now,

maybe Greenville's district is larger than optimal, at 74,000 students. But clearly Allendale District 1, at 1,321 students, is too small.

Times and Democrat (Guest Column): Supreme justice for rural students

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/supreme-justice-for-rural-students/article_65a44058-72a5-11e4-b5ec-4fb94d40761a.html

Regina Hitchcock

It's unfortunate that a generation of children had to wait for a 21-year-in-the-making decision from the South Carolina Supreme Court to wake up to the fact that we are failing our kids. Not all have been blind to this fact, but the issue of substandard education, particularly in our rural and low-income districts, has been too often ignored, side-stepped and passed off.

Aiken Standard: Wrong messages sent by tepid Council vote

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141123/AIK0201/141129899/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The recruitment of new business is part of the lifeblood of any economically viable community. It's such an essential element that Aiken County actually invests in an economic development partnership with Edgefield and Saluda counties that aims to bring in new industry and make sure existing ones stay here.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

WCIV: Sen. Scott: All options will be used to stop immigration plan

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/27458511/sen-scott-all-options-will-be-used-to-stop-immigration-plan>

A South Carolina Senator promises to push back against President Barack Obama's immigration order. Less than a month after Republicans swept the mid-term elections, the GOP is split over how to derail the president's executive order. But Sen. Tim Scott says his party may use a variety of ways to flex their new majority muscle.

New York Times: G.O.P.-Led Benghazi Panel Bolsters Administration

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/23/world/middleeast/republican-led-benghazi-inquiry-largely-backs-administration.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

Michael S. Schmidt

A report released late Friday about the fatal 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, left Republicans in the same position they have been in for two years: with little evidence to support their most damning critiques of how the Obama administration, and then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, responded to the attacks.

Note: The special committee that Mr. Boehner created is led by Representative Trey Gowdy, Republican of South Carolina, who has a budget of \$3.3 million for the investigation.

Associated Press: GOP-led House report debunks Benghazi allegations

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141122/PC1603/141129781>

Ken Dilanian

The CIA and the military acted properly in responding to the 2012 attack on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, a Republican-controlled House committee has found. Its report asserted no wrongdoing by Obama administration officials.

South Carolina News:

The State: SC-wide property tax could address school inequities

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829656/exclusive-sc-wide-property-tax.html>

Cassie Cope

A House proposal that failed last year could form the foundation of a solution to South Carolina's K-12 education-funding crisis. The proposal would establish a statewide property tax rate to pay for schools. The taxes collected from businesses and industries would be distributed among the state's 82 school districts, based on their student population.

The State: New day rising in the I-77 corridor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829942/new-day-rising-in-the-i-77-corridor.html>

Roddie Burris

Three big job announcements this year – one in normally placid Chester County – signal the start of a new

chapter of commercial development and growth along the I-77 corridor. The corridor has long been ripe for development but has had to overcome construction delays, a changing manufacturing scene and a major recession.

Post and Courier: Same-sex marriage brings more legal security to couples, families

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141123/PC16/141129816>

Jennifer Berry Hawes

Like many gay couples, Amanda Hollinger and Tasha Gandy were abuzz last week over the historic moment when same-sex marriage became legal in South Carolina. They were among the first to pick up a marriage license. But it confused their 5-year-old son.

The State: Federal health insurance marketplace starts much better in SC on second try

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829842/federal-health-insurance-marketplace.html#storylink=cpy>

Joey Holleman

What a difference a year makes. The first week of 2015 enrollment in the federal health insurance marketplace through healthcare.gov was busy and free of major technical problems, according to those who help people enroll in South Carolina.

Sun News: Grand Strand officials nearing finalized traffic pattern for Memorial Day weekend safety plan

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/23/4623901/grand-strand-officials-nearing.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Maya T. Prabhu

Grand Strand officials may be closer to an agreement over proposed traffic patterns that would be in place during Memorial Day weekend to keep vehicles moving and cut down on “street parties” – which officials say can lead to crime.

Rock Hill Herald: I-77 Alliance markets “100-mile” industrial park between Charlotte and Columbia

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/11/22/3829765/i-77-alliance-markets-100-mile.html#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

As president and CEO of the I-77 Alliance, Rich Fletcher is responsible for promoting York, Chester, Fairfield and Richland counties. Yet in conversations, Fletcher is likely to first talk about Charlotte, Columbia, or even Charleston. It's deliberate, says Fletcher, who was hired in September.

Associated Press: SC to preserve nearly 32,000 acres this year

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cy6iE7G8

The South Carolina Conservation Bank plans to buy 26 properties totaling 31,600 acres this fiscal year. The Department of Natural Resources says the bank's board approved the properties at its meeting earlier this month. The average cost per acre is \$421.

Rock Hill Herald: Winthrop University reviews oversight of salaries

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/11/22/6556028_winthrop-reviews-salary-oversight.html?rh=1

Anna Douglas

On Friday morning, the board's “committee on compensation” gave its initial approval to a list of responsibilities that includes reviewing any planned salary increase of 15 percent or more for any Winthrop employee.

Local News:

Florence Morning News: Latta superintendent helped start the fight for equal distribution

http://www.snow.com/news/education/article_26429e2e-729f-11e4-b169-5b7857e27741.html

Melissa Rollins

Public schools in poor districts across South Carolina got a victory earlier this month when the S.C. Supreme Court made a ruling in a 21-year-old lawsuit pertaining to public education funding. However, it remains to be seen just how the ruling will play out.

Island Packet: Across Beaufort County, Obama immigration order brings a sense of relief

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/11/22/3447477_across-beaufort-county-obama-immigration.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Sarah Bowman

Some aspects of the president's plan -- including the end of the threat of deportation -- take effect immediately. Other points will be rolled out in the coming weeks and months, barring congressional or legal action.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Spartanburg church holds weddings for gay couples

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20141122/ARTICLES/141129877/1112?Title=Spartanburg-church-holds-weddings-for-gay-couples>

Felicia Kitzmiller

Looking into the eyes of her partner and standing before family and friends, Natasha Hemphill's voice momentarily failed on Saturday when her wedding vows reached "so long as we both shall live." The choked sob was the release of emotions that have been building between Hemphill and her partner, Leslie Mayes, since they met at a summer league basketball game 12 years ago.

Post and Courier: Charleston battles 'demolition by neglect' of historic structures

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141122/PC16/141129746>

Robert Behre

It's Charleston's dirty little secret. Despite topping Conde Nast's list of best U.S. cities to visit and Livability.com's 10 best cities for historic preservation, the city has almost 350 homes and other structures at risk for "demolition by neglect," a lack of maintenance that threatens their survival.

Sun News: Myrtle Beach area economic development group's top CEO candidate knows 'tough job' from experience

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/11/23/4623780_myrtle-beach-area-economic-development.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

Steve Jones

The top candidate for the top job at the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp. has a lot to learn, said his current boss, Jeff McKay, executive director of the North Eastern Strategic Alliance. It's not that Jim Moore isn't qualified to fill the CEO's job, it's that every day is a learning day for economic development professionals, no matter how many years they are in it, McKay said.

Aiken Standard: Aiken Standard examines local arrest rates

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141123/AIK0102/141129834/1004/aiken-standard-examines-local-arrest-rates>

Teddy Kulmala

An investigation of more than 3,500 police agencies conducted by USA Today found that at least 1,500 of them -- including the Aiken Department of Public Safety -- arrest African-Americans at rates "even more skewed" than Ferguson, Missouri.

National News:

Associated Press: A way for GOP to defuse immigration issue

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_REPUBLICANS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-11-23-04-52-56

Nicholas Riccardi

Republicans in search of a way to oppose President Barack Obama's moves on immigration without alienating the nation's fast-growing population of Hispanic voters can find a playbook in Colorado. GOP Rep. Cory Gardner won election to the Senate in the midterms in a state where 14 percent of voters are Hispanic.

Associated Press: Analysis: veto gives Obama edge on immigration

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRATION_STAKES_ANALYSIS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-11-22-11-04-03

David Espo

President Barack Obama has the upper hand in the fierce struggle over immigration now taking shape, with a veto pen ready to kill any Republican move to reverse his executive order, Democrats united behind him and GOP congressional leaders desperate to squelch talk of a government shutdown or even impeachment.

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