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Governor Nikki Haley News:

The State: SC power brokers flex their muscles in June primary

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article80567687.html>

Jamie Self

Candidates are on the homestretch to the June 14 political primaries with some attracting more help – and opposition – than others from power brokers on high. S.C. business leaders are backing 26 legislators – 19 Republicans and seven Democrats – in primary races, including three opposed by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and a group supporting her political agenda. The Good Government Committee, the political arm of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, has donated to state Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence; state Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York; and state Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, R-Georgetown, who is running for the state Senate.

Note: Chamber chief executive Ted Pitts said Thursday that Goldfinch, Hayes and Leatherman performed well on the chamber's voting scorecards and, as a result, have his group's backing.

Note: In at least three primary races, that support pits Haley against the business group and Pitts, a former chief of staff to Haley. The governor is traveling the state to endorse GOP candidates who are opposing Hayes, Goldfinch, Leatherman and one other longtime state senator, Luke Rankin, R-Horry. A pro-Haley political group, A Great Day SC, also is running ads against the incumbents and for Haley's primary picks.

Morning News: Problems outnumber solutions in Pee Dee public schools

http://www.scnw.com/news/education/article_f66c9940-2a9c-11e6-9cf7-4fdc13283832.html

Jake Crouse

In 1993, 40 school districts from across South Carolina became plaintiffs in a case against the state government, referred to as Abbeville v. South Carolina. These districts, representing over a third of school districts in the state, argued that their students had not been given the opportunity to receive a "minimally adequate education." Every school district in the Pee Dee region except for Darlington County is a member of that plaintiff list. After 21 years of dismissals, rehearings, referrals and appeals, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that the state's education funding scheme "is a fractured formula denying students ... the constitutionally required opportunity." The court originally charged the General Assembly with providing drafts of comprehensive legislation addressing the problems by February, but settled on the end of the 2016 legislative period after complaints by state politicians.

Note: It wasn't due to a lack of ideas. Gov. Nikki Haley brought a number of potential solutions to her State of the State address in January: a \$200 million-a-year borrowing plan to fix infrastructure, a revisal of teacher loan forgiveness programs to attract more teachers to these districts and a plan to bring wireless "hot spots" to 10,000 low-income families were among the top of the list. None of those proposals saw a final vote.

General Assembly News:

The State: SC ethics reforms stalled after 4 years of debate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article81851692.html>

Jamie Self

After four years of debate about how to strengthen the state's ethics laws, S.C. lawmakers may pass two changes to the rules governing public officials' behavior later this month. Maybe. Dozens of ethics bills have been introduced since late 2012, when Gov. Nikki Haley formed a blue-ribbon committee to evaluate state

laws governing how public officials should behave. But out of the nearly two dozen recommendations made by that panel, only two have a chance of becoming law four years later, when the Legislature wraps up its work during its mid-June veto session.

Post and Courier: Why gun reform failed this year in South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160604/PC1603/160609728>

Cynthia Roldan

Two of Charleston's lawmakers started the legislative session optimistic that 2016 would be the year South Carolina tackled gun reform. Tragedy had ripped apart the Palmetto State through the slaying of nine worshipers at Emanuel AME Church, and both Sen. Marlon Kimpson and Rep. Wendell Gilliard planned on returning peace of mind to the citizens of their respective districts. Yet gun reform never came into contention at the Statehouse. Last week, the two Democrats pointed to several reasons why: The legislative process, politics, filibusters and gun ideologies, plus other matters — including road funding and ethics reform — overwhelmed the time for legislators this year. Neither chamber ever entertained holding a hearing on the bills that had been filed back in December.

Greenville News: Some legislators to focus on dismemberment abortion ban next year

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/06/04/abortions-drop-but-more-legislative-battles-ahead/85286308/>

Tim Smith

Almost 16 years after South Carolina lawmakers passed the first abortion bill requiring parental consent, the number of abortions performed in the state has been cut in half and pro-life supporters are celebrating a "groundbreaking" year in the General Assembly. That's because of a law authored by Rep. Wendy Nanney of Greenville, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which bans abortions after 19 weeks. That law followed a string of abortion restrictions passed by South Carolina lawmakers in the last decade, including the Ultrasound Act and the 24 Hour Waiting Period Act.

Post and Courier: South Carolina Legislature giving Congress a run for its money

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160605/PC16/160609762>

Brian Hicks

For the next two weeks, lawmakers on the campaign trail are going to crow about fixing our roads this year. "Trail" is a most appropriate term, as that describes the current state of many South Carolina highways — particularly in the Lowcountry. And frankly, those guys didn't do much. As usual. They changed which politicians appoint the state Department of Transportation board and passed a plan to borrow \$4 billion for roads. Mind you, \$4 billion is roughly 10 percent of what the DOT estimates it would take to solve our road woes today. And unlike, say, salaries, the price of road repairs goes up annually.

WACH: Lawmakers set date to discuss fate of Richland County Rec. Commission

<http://wach.com/news/local/lawmakers-set-date-to-discuss-fate-of-richland-county-rec-commission>

Tara Petitt

The Richland County Delegation will meet Friday to discuss the legislature's options in dealing with the troubled Richland County Recreation Commission. The Commission, members of its board and its Director James Brown are targets of numerous lawsuits that accuse them of sexual harassment, bribery, and several other accusations. One member of the Richland Delegation says he hopes to suspend the two members being investigated and remove the current Director.

SC Political News:

Aiken Standard: North Augusta Project Jackson public records case heads back to court

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160604/AIK0101/160609755>

Michael Smith

Steve Donohue thinks there should be a state agency that oversees the release of public records by local governments. "There ought to be a less expensive way for a citizen to correct errors by local government and

how they comply with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, whether it's an executive session or releasing documents," the North Augusta resident said. It's easy to see why. Nearly 2½ years have passed since Donohue first sued the City of North Augusta in December 2013 over issues relating to Project Jackson, a proposed development along the North Augusta riverfront. His case was heard last year by the S.C. Supreme Court, which partially ruled in his favor, saying in court documents that several executive sessions North Augusta City Council held in relation to Project Jackson violated open meeting laws.

Aiken Standard: South Carolina Democrats weigh in on Sanders, Clinton ahead of California primary

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160604/AIK0101/160609756>

Christina Cleveland

As the race for the Democratic presidential nomination carries on, some South Carolina Democrats say the two remaining candidates deciding to stay in the race will unite the party. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is continuing his campaign ahead of what appears will be a competitive California primary Tuesday, while media outlets such as CNN and The Associated Press report former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton currently is poised to clinch the nomination. Sanders plans to compete in the final contest, the District of Columbia primary June 14, AP reported. Though some Democrats have expressed it may be difficult for Clinton and Sanders supporters to back one candidate after a nominee is chosen, RaShad Gaines, a Sanders delegate for the Democratic National Convention, said whether the Vermont senator is the nominee or not, he believes the Democrats "taking the run all the way to the end" will unite the party.

SC Agency News:

Post and Courier: DSS audit of food vouchers after flood uncovers hundreds of fraud cases

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160529/PC16/160529407>

Dave Munday

Hundreds of people who applied for extra food vouchers after the historic flooding in South Carolina in October will have to pay the money back or face fraud charges. The Department of Social Services has completed a random audit of the 178,000 residents who were approved for help after the flood. The audit of 9,029 claims found that about 3.3 percent had lied. That includes 28 fraudulent claims uncovered in the tri-county area. As an example of fraud, an applicant might have claimed to be unemployed and the audit found he was working, according to DSS spokeswoman Karen Wingo. The average fraudulent claim was \$434. Those who committed fraud will be given a chance to repay it without penalty. If that doesn't work, DSS will try to recoup the money by intercepting tax returns. The final step would be criminal charges.

SC Elections:

Morning News: Senate District 31 Primary: Leatherman, Skipper, Fowler talk ethics and jobs

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_8defcd1c-2a9f-11e6-aeda-4fe5d0351ac9.html

Senate President Pro-tempore Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., Florence's District 31 incumbent for 36 years, has two Republican challengers in the June 14 primary – former County GOP Chairman Richard Skipper and current County Treasurer Dean Fowler. At the center of this race are questions on ethics reform, road fixes, term limits and contentious exchanges over these policies. The race has drawn not only the eyes of the city and county but statewide attention with several high profile endorsements. Gov. Nikki Haley came to Florence last Wednesday to endorse Skipper and called Leatherman "the hardest part" of her job as governor.

Post and Courier: Mark Sanford, Jenny Horne to have first and only debate in congressional race Monday night

<http://www.postandcourier.com/20160604/160609737/mark-sanford-jenny-horne-to-have-first-and-only-debate-in-congressional-race-monday-night>

1st District Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford has gone the whole GOP primary re-election season without running a TV ad against longshot challenger Jenny Horne. It's not for lack of money. Sanford, who lives in Mount Pleasant, began the race with more than \$900,000 in the bank as he seeks to defend his seat against Horne, a state lawmaker from Summerville, in the June 14 primary. While Sanford won't say if he'll have an ad

presence the final days, voters who want to catch Sanford and Horne on TV can do it Monday night when the pair faces off at 7 p.m. in an SCETV debate.

The Herald: Former Carolina Panther ends race for York County sheriff

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/election/local-election/article81798602.html>

Bristow Marchant

York County sheriff candidate Michael Scurlock has dropped out of the race, citing a failure to collect enough signatures to get on the November ballot as a petition candidate. Scurlock made the announcement in a Facebook post Saturday. "After much prayer, I have decided to suspend my 2016 sheriff's campaign," the former Carolina Panther said. "Although my team and I worked very hard, we were unable to acquire enough petition signatures." The decision means the winner of the June 14 Republican primary for sheriff – Kevin Tolson or John Williams – will run unopposed in the general election.

Opinion/Editorial:

The State: Naive optimism crashes into legislative reality

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article81676477.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

WEDNESDAY was the worst. Up until Wednesday, I was holding on to this naive optimism that this time things would be different. Think Charlie Brown charging toward the football. This time, I told myself, the Legislature would actually reform the unaccountable, parochial Transportation Commission, and put the governor in charge. Not like back in 2007, when lawmakers pretended to do that but really didn't, and Mark Sanford, for probably the only time in his life, decided to take a barely partial win and declare victory. This time, I had honestly come to believe that the Legislature was actually going to pass a real ethics-reform bill. Not one that made legislators tell us where they got their money and made special interests tell us where they got their money to influence our votes, but at least one that would let an independent panel investigate legislators' ethics.

Post and Courier: Needed roads fix falls short

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160605/PC1002/160609641>

Editorial

The Legislature has passed a roads bill that will serve as a substantial stopgap to fund badly needed work on state bridges and roads. Bridges especially. There is no more important priority to be addressed in the \$2.2 billion bond bill than bringing nearly 400 bridges up to safety standards, either by repair or replacement. Elsewhere, the bill commits Department of Motor Vehicle fees and sales taxes on motor vehicles to a \$1 billion repaving project statewide, plus interstate improvements and other road priorities.

Greenville News: Editorial: Loftis top choice in Sheriff's race

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/06/03/editorial-loftis-top-choice-sheriffs-race/85288784/>

Editorial

In the Republican primary for Greenville County Sheriff four former Sheriff's Office employees have made a case that incumbent Steve Loftis should be replaced. Loftis is opposed by former GCSO captain and current Michelin security executive Bruce Cannon, and former GCSO deputies Hobart Lewis, Will Lewis and Sam Manley. As the Greenville News editorial board interviewed the men in this race it quickly became clear there are four qualified candidates, including Loftis. Given the caliber of candidates, the question is whether there is a compelling reason to replace the incumbent.

Aiken Standard: Project Jackson suit shows why FOIA reform is needed

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160604/AIK0201/160609800>

Editorial

A six-year effort to strengthen state public information laws isn't dead, but it is in critical condition and on life support. Meantime, a continuing court case involving Project Jackson in North Augusta illustrates perfectly

why reform of the S.C. Freedom of Information Act is sorely needed in the first place. In December 2013, North Augusta resident Steve Donohue sued the City of North Augusta concerning how the City handled the controversial Project Jackson development, which seeks to bring a baseball stadium, hotel and convention center to the North Augusta riverfront. Part of Donohue's suit challenged a series of executive sessions, saying the North Augusta City Council didn't state specific reasons for the private meetings.

The Herald: Herald editorial: SC should prepare for Zika virus outbreak

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article81643447.html>

Editorial

Health experts say a major outbreak of the Zika virus in South Carolina this summer is improbable. Nonetheless, we're better safe than sorry. The Zika virus can cause frightening birth defects, notably microcephaly, which causes children to be born with small heads or hardened spots on their brains. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, primarily *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. However, the virus also can be spread by sexual contact. So even those who are not bitten by an infected mosquito can contract the disease. So far, South Carolina has just one confirmed case of the virus. But the virus has spread rapidly over the past year in Central and South America, and it also has taken hold in Puerto Rico and parts of the U.S. Mainland.

Island Packet: Finally, a glimpse of sanity on beachfront

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article81909217.html>

Editorial

A good, strong dose of sanity was delivered last week by the General Assembly on the tricky issue of oceanfront development. The new law passed at long last and sent to the governor will literally draw a line in the sand. It will stop development from inching ever closer to the ravaging sea. South Carolina tried to get a handle on this problem with the 1988 Beachfront Management Act. It drew a line in the sand based on years of erosion data. It prohibited construction seaward of that line. It was a progressive law, based on the science and common sense of a very simple principle: retreat from the encroaching ocean. But loopholes were used to circumvent that sound principle. We trust the new law closes the loopholes. Under the Shoreline Management Bill (S. 319), that line in the sand will never move seaward after Dec. 31, 2017.

Note: "When Gov. (Nikki) Haley signs S. 139, South Carolina's shoreline will have a baseline that never moves seaward — a delineation that establishes a seaside boundary for construction — protecting our beaches and the communities that depend on them."

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: AP: Patchy reporting undercuts national hate crimes count

<http://bigstory.ap.org/8247a1d2f76b4baea2a121186dedf768>

Christina A. Cassidy

The knock on the door, strong and quick, jolted Barbara Hicks Collins awake. It was the middle of the night. Someone must be in trouble, she thought. She flung open her front door to the shocking sight of her car engulfed in flames. Investigators later determined someone had deliberately set fire to her Mercedes and also tried to burn down the one-story brick house she shared with her mother in this eastern Louisiana town, once known as a hotbed of Ku Klux Klan activity. Hicks Collins, a black woman, had no doubt the fire — set on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2012 — was racially motivated. Her father had been a prominent civil rights leader who filed lawsuits that desegregated local schools and forced police to protect protesters, and her family remained active in the community.

Note: The ADL has launched a "50 States Against Hate" campaign that includes improved data collection by law enforcement as a top priority, and also is seeking passage of hate crime laws in the five states that do not have them: Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Wyoming.

Post and Courier: Anglers asked to report and release double-tagged cobia

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160604/PC20/160609776>

Tommy Braswell

Pretty soon releasing cobia is going to be mandatory. But if you catch a cobia that has two external tags, one

yellow and one orange, fisheries biologists are asking that you not only release the fish but also report the catch. A federal closure for recreational cobia fishing begins June 20 in an effort to rebuild the fishery and offset the decline in cobia populations. In the meantime, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission have partnered to implant up to 150 acoustic transmitters in cobia along the coasts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. A large array of acoustic receivers are deployed along the Gulf and East Coasts that allow researchers to track the movement of fish and other marine animals.

Local News:

Herald-Journal: Spartanburg-area law enforcement agencies report few hate crimes

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160604/articles/160609860>

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg-area law enforcement officials say while few hate crimes occur, those that do can be difficult to classify as such. The Spartanburg Police Department reported 12 hate crimes since 2009, according to statistics provided by the State Law Enforcement Division, which collects data submitted by agencies across the state. Among those incidents were threats, assaults and intimidation, primarily related to race and sexuality, according to data from the Spartanburg Police Department. There were five in 2009, two in 2010, four in 2011 and one in 2012. "It doesn't come up that often," said Maj. Art Littlejohn, a spokesman for the department.

The State: Drugs, gangs, domestic violence driving homicides spike, Midlands officials say

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article81820857.html#storylink=apmobile>

Glenn Luke Flanagan

Last year was the deadliest in five years for homicides in Columbia and Richland and Lexington counties. Columbia saw 14 killings, Richland, 29, and Lexington, 21, according to numbers compiled by Richland County Coroner Gary Watts and Lexington County Coroner Margaret Fisher at the request of The State newspaper. Officials say gang and youth violence is a problem, as are domestic violence and a statewide upswing in drug crimes. The 64 homicides in 2015 significantly outpaced the annual average of 50 deaths for the past five years. And Watts said Columbia and Richland so far this year are on pace to match last year.

Island Packet: Walk raises \$5K for scholarship tribute to slain teen

<http://www.islandpacket.com/entertainment/local-events/article81830182.html>

Wade Livingston

The mall — that's where Rudy Milton and her son used to walk. Lenox Square in Atlanta. St. Johns Town Center in Jacksonville, Fla. Oglethorpe Mall in Savannah, a little closer to home. She and her son, the late Dominique Williams, would "close down a mall," she said Saturday morning as she walked down South Forest Beach Drive on Hilton Head Island. They'd shop until store owners switched off their lights and security guards locked the doors. Her son was all around her Saturday: His face was on the T-shirts and buttons worn by the roughly 150 walkers who showed up at Coligny Beach Park for an 8 a.m. stroll in his — "Dom's" — honor. It was the first fundraising event held by Walk For Dom. The organization was founded after Williams was shot and killed at Coligny Beach Park last July.

The Herald: Emergency responders warn of dangers of leaving kids alone in cars

<http://www.heraldonline.com/latest-news/article81839097.html>

Teddy Kulmala

Ten minutes may seem like a quick trip inside the store, but emergency responders say that's all it takes for temperatures inside a car to turn deadly if a child is inside. A Rock Hill mother was charged with three counts of child neglect this week after leaving her three children, ages 8, 2 and 2, in the car for nearly 30 minutes while she was inside Rock Hill Galleria. At least three shoppers saw the unattended children crying in the car and called 911. "It could have been catastrophic," said Assistant Chief Robert White of Piedmont EMS. White, who co-chairs Safe Kids York County, said parents and caregivers need to realize how quickly temperatures inside a car can turn deadly, especially during the summer.

The State: Some dams may not be rebuilt in Richland County

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article81850837.html#storylink=apmobile>

Sammy Fretwell

In the face of legal and financial questions, some Richland County property owners are preparing for a future without the placid lakes that increased their land values and made life pleasant. A homeowners' group at Walden Pond plans to restore a stream by removing the remnants of a dam that fell apart near Clemson Road. Another association is examining whether to take the same steps at Lake Elizabeth on U.S. 21 north of Columbia. Dams that held back both lakes failed during last October's historic flood, exposing creeks that today run through grassy mud flats.

The State: New businesses are boosting Columbia's North Main

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article81798917.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

North Main Street, particularly the underutilized and long-neglected commercial corridor between Elmwood Avenue and the railroad trestle at Earlewood Park, continues to build momentum as Columbia's next hot spot. The War Mouth, an upscale but accessible restaurant with an outdoorsy twist, has opened in one of several empty 1950s and 1960s industrial buildings clustered on Franklin Street in Cottontown, just off North Main. And the Cotton Town Brew Lab – two planned craft beer breweries and a super-sized tasting room – is being built in a former garage complex just down the street.

Herald-Journal: Downtown garden to give Spartanburg residents place to grow

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160604/articles/160609865>

Alyssa Mulliger

A community garden in downtown Spartanburg will soon give residents a place to gather, grow nutritious foods and learn about healthy eating. The Spartanburg County Foundation Community Garden was unveiled Friday at a city-owned lot facing South Church Street, across from the Spartanburg County Public Library. The garden is being built by the Leadership Spartanburg class of 2016 and will be managed by Hub City Farmers' Market. Caroline Sexton, executive director of Hub City Farmers' Market, said the garden will have 12 plots. Nine spaces will be rented annually to residents for \$125 per year. Two other spots will be rented to residents through scholarships, and the final space will be a Farmers' Market model plot.

National News:

Associated Press: Ali became world citizen but never forgot his hometown roots

<http://bigstory.ap.org/023f987e82c845e8b2a70252438ae416>

Bruce Schreiner

Muhammad Ali traveled the world as a fighter and humanitarian, but he always came home to Louisville. His Kentucky hometown was where Ali, as a gangly teenager, began to develop his boxing skills — the dazzling footwork and rapid-fire punching prowess. The three-time world heavyweight boxing champion never forgot his roots, returning to his old West End neighborhood and visiting high school classmates even after becoming one of the world's most recognizable men. Now the focus shifts back to Ali's hometown as the world says goodbye to the man who emerged from humble beginnings to rub elbows with heads of state.

Associated Press: Ali remembered in Muslim world as champ, voice of change

<http://bigstory.ap.org/910a2c6723634bcd263fca012de5bc9>

Hamza Hendawi

Of all Muhammad Ali's travels in the Muslim world, his 1964 trip to Egypt was perhaps the most symbolic, a visit remembered mostly by an iconic photo of the boxing great happily shaking hands with a smiling Gamal Abdel-Nasser, Egypt's nationalist and popular president. It was a mutually beneficial meeting: Nasser was viewed with suspicion and mistrust by the United States, but was revered across much of Africa and Asia for his support of movements fighting European colonial powers. For Ali, the new heavyweight boxing champion, being received by one of "imperialist" America's chief enemies announced his arrival on the global stage as a powerful voice of change.

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