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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Times and Democrat: Pascoe lauds governor's domestic violence plan

http://thetandd.com/news/pascoe-lauds-governor-s-domestic-violence-plan/article_6ede6c1f-766e-5812-a370-dbfccd203a21.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina tops the U.S. in the number of women murdered by men, 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe says. Additionally, it's ranked sixth highest for violent crime. "We have to reverse this trend," he said. According to Pascoe, Gov. Nikki Haley's 2016 executive budget may be a big part of the solution.

Note: Haley expressed her concern about the way abusers are prosecuted when she announced her plan early in January. "I was mortified when I learned that it was law enforcement who were prosecuting these cases," she said.

Note: Pascoe called Haley's budget the "most significant proposal I've seen come out of Columbia in my 11 years as solicitor on dealing with the domestic violence crisis and docketing issues we have in South Carolina."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley's budget includes \$350M for roadwork

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bPPW7J8p

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley released a budget proposal Friday for the coming fiscal year that provides roughly \$350 million for roadwork and \$300 million on education initiatives. Her roughly \$7.5 billion recommendation for state taxes comes in a year when there's more than \$1 billion in additional revenue available to spend. Most of the windfall stems from years of conservative estimates by the state's economic advisers and carried-over surpluses.

The State: Gov. Haley: Spend \$345 million to repair roads

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article54870010.html>

Cassie Cope

Gov. Nikki Haley wants to start phasing in a 10 cent-a-gallon gas-tax increase and a huge cut to the state's income tax. Haley's proposal for the state budget, unveiled Friday, outlines her priorities for the state's fiscal year that starts July 1 — a year when the state will have more than \$1 billion in added revenues. S.C. lawmakers will begin writing the state budget next month.

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley unveils state's roughly \$7.5 billion executive budget

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1603/160119554>

Cynthia Roldan

Spending more money to address the state's crumbling roads and better funding for local government are among Gov. Nikki Haley's top priorities in this year's executive budget. Haley unveiled her spending priorities on the state's roughly \$7.5 billion budget Friday. The state has \$1.3 billion in new money and unspent funds this year.

Note: "If I allow just a gas tax to be out there, (legislators) would raise the gas taxes and they'd never cut taxes for taxpayers," Haley said. "The only way I can make sure I'm protecting the taxpayer is to say, 'OK, you want to raise the gas tax? You can do it by 10 cents, but you're going to cut income taxes by 2 whole percentage points.'"

WYFF: Gov. Haley releases state tax spending plan

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/governor-haley-to-release-state-tax-spending-plan/37452778>

Patrick Hussion

Gov. Nikki Haley has released her fifth spending plan for state taxes in a year when there's more than \$1

billion in additional revenue. The Republican governor detailed her 2016-17 budget proposal Friday at the Statehouse.

Note: "The 1,000-year flood did have a cost to it. That was expected but as I said we were gonna try to cover it as much as we could so we didn't have to go to the feds," said Haley.

Note: The governor's proposal would put nearly \$400 million into transportation and road repair. "Let's quit talking about it. Let's put the money in there. Let's start fixing the roads by priority and let's see the improvements that have happened," she said.

Note: "The billion dollars that we gave to roads two or three years ago without raising taxes is just now going into effect. So you're just now seeing those orange cones."

Aiken Standard: Gov. Haley's budget includes \$113M for local governments

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160115/AIK0105/160119611/gov-haley-x2019-s-budget-includes-113m-for-local-governments>

Maayan Schechter

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's budget proposals for the upcoming year would give much overdue relief to both infrastructure and education needs in the state, yet her proposal to supplement the local government fund – which hasn't been fully funded since 2009 – is turning heads of local officials, in a good way.

WCNC: Haley outlines SC budget proposal; roads and education top priorities

<http://www.wcnc.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/15/haley-outlines-sc-budget-proposal-roads-and-education-top-priorities/78870188/>

Dustin Wilson

Governor Nikki Haley made national headlines in the last week, but Friday she spoke to South Carolina tax payers and rolled out a budget proposal of roughly \$7.5 billion. South Carolina boasts some of the lowest gas prices in the country, but those will see an increase under Governor Haley's proposed plan. The governor believes she's found a way to accomplish road improvements without hurting tax payers.

Note: "Doing a 10-cent gas tax increase and the two percentage income tax reduction... we wanted to show that it can be done," said Gov. Haley.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley unveils her \$7.43 billion budget

<http://www.live5news.com/story/30975735/gov-nikki-haley-unveils-her-743-billion-budget>

Will Whitson

Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed \$7.43 billion budget will recommend fully funding county and local governments across South Carolina for the first time since 2008, according to a detailed look into her budget proposal. Haley's budget puts an emphasis on five themes: education, public finance, public safety, flood recovery, and economic development.

Note: "We don't owe as much and we have more in savings as we need should something happen," Haley said. "After this past year -- when you think you have to dip into your reserves -- the fact that we didn't dip into our reserves, the fact we were able to pay for the flood tragedy and everything else that we dealt with shows that South Carolina is on good standing."

WSPA: Income tax cut, gas tax hike in Gov. Haley's budget

<http://wspa.com/2016/01/15/income-tax-cut-gas-tax-hike-in-gov-haleys-budget/>

Robert Kittle

Gov. Nikki Haley announced her budget proposal for next year Friday at the Statehouse and it includes a gas tax increase to fix roads and an income tax cut. She says taxpayers would come out ahead because the income tax would be cut by \$131 million while the gas tax would go up by \$49 million.

Note: "I'm going to veto anything that is a net tax increase," she told reporters. "I'm just not going to have it when you've got \$1.3 billion in new money. I'm not going to do that to the taxpayers of this state."

WLTX: What Governor Haley Wants to Spend State Dollars On

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/15/what-governor-haley-wants-spend-state-dollars/78855380/>

Joyce Koh

Governor Nikki Haley released her executive budget Friday morning, prioritizing what she wants to get done with the \$1.3 billion in the state's added money. Among some of her top priorities for lawmakers were funding education, roads, flood recovery, and local governments and offering tax cuts.

Note: "Being able to cut our debt in half over the last five years, being able to double our reserves, that means something, and it means something to the taxpayers of South Carolina," Haley said. "Going through

a thousand year flood, that would have wiped out a lot of states. It didn't wipe us out, because we were ready, we were healthy."

Note: In dealing with the floods, Haley wants to cover FEMA's match at \$75 million, Department of Transportation's match at \$280 million (which includes \$231 million roads funding), \$40 million for beach renourishment, and \$700,000 to fund state dam inspectors.

Note: "Doing the ten cent gas tax increase and the two percentage income tax reduction, we wanted to show that it can be done, we wanted to show the general assembly how it can be done, and we hope they'll go with that."

CNN: GOP debate winners and losers

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/15/politics/republican-debate-2016-winners-losers/>

Jeremy Diamond

Donald Trump and Ted Cruz had their first fist-fight of the 2016 campaign during Thursday night's Republican debate. And they both won. But they weren't the only victors in a night that revealed the top seven GOP presidential contenders' strengths and weaknesses just over two weeks before voters cast the first ballots in the Iowa caucuses.

Nikki Haley: When even the candidate you criticized on national television talks you up as a "friend," you know you've got influence.

Note: After obliquely knocking Trump in her delivery of the GOP response to the State of the Union Tuesday, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley earned the businessman's praise on the stage Thursday night.

Note: Haley, the popular South Carolina governor praised by both establishment and tea party figures, basked in goodwill from those on the stage -- likely pining for her powerful South Carolina endorsement.

The State: How Gov. Nikki Haley's speech compares with S.C. actions

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article54891490.html>

Vera Bergengruen

If Americans outside of South Carolina didn't know Nikki Haley's name before, a lot more definitely know it now. The nation's youngest governor garnered praise from both sides of the political aisle for her levelheaded response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech Tuesday. But what if she had given the same address to an audience in the Palmetto State?

WPDE: \$40 million for beach renourishment included in Gov. Haley's proposed 2016-17 budget

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article54996515.html#storylink=cpy>

Governor Nikki Haley announced her 2016-2017 executive budget on Friday afternoon, which includes millions of dollars for beach renourishment, something that local officials have been asking for since the storms in October.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Index-Journal: Anderson Republicans eyeing vacant senate seat

Day, Burgess formally announce candidacies, others weighing options

<http://indexjournal.com/news/Anderson-Republicans-eyeing-vacant-senate-seat>

Colin Riddle

A number of Anderson Republicans have been taking a look at running for the District 4 state Senate seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Billy O'Dell. O'Dell, of Ware Shoals, held the seat for 27 years, taking office in 1989. The district encompasses portions of Abbeville, Anderson and Greenwood counties, including much of southern Anderson County.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Democrats holding a big weekend in Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160116/PC1603/160119497>

Robert Behre

As Republican presidential hopefuls trickle out of town after Thursday's debates, the Democrats will begin to show. The party plans three major events — culminating with Sunday's Democratic presidential debate at 9 p.m. inside the Gaillard Center — and several smaller ones across the city.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: Nikki Haley's righteous gamble

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/nikki-haleys-righteous-gamble/2016/01/15/3038fdcf-bbcc-11e5-99f3-184bc379b12d_story.html

Kathleen Parker

By broad consensus, the winner of Thursday night's GOP debate was Donald Trump, followed by Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, with most of the postgame commentary focused on "the fight" between Cruz and Trump. But the real fight was revealed a couple of nights earlier when South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley gave the Republican Party's response to President Obama's State of the Union address. She pulled no punches and brought the fight to her own party.

Post and Courier: Keep working to reduce human trafficking in S.C.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160116/PC1002/160119439>

Alan Wilson

Last January, we began the year by asking the General Assembly to pass much-needed legislation which would provide the State Grand Jury jurisdiction over human trafficking cases that occur in multiple counties throughout the state. This January, I'm pleased to reflect on how far we have come since that day.

Aiken Standard: Cost issues involved in SNAP reform

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160115/AIK0201/160119667/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

Rep. Chris Corley's call to drug test adult recipients of food stamps would likely have the opposite effect he's hoping for from a financial standpoint. The Graniteville Republican prefiled a bill last month that would require drug testing for each adult who benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Post and Courier: Tent town bad for homeless, city

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1002/160119435>

Editorial

The tent city of homeless people under the on-ramps from Meeting Street to I-26 and Mount Pleasant illustrates a significant local problem. But it is not the answer. Unfortunately the answer is not easy. And the number of tents, now more than 75, is growing.

Post and Courier: Don't shirk president-picking duty

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160116/PC16/160119470>

Frank Wooten

Familiar lament: Is this presidential field really the best we can do? Many Americans are again posing that scornful — and cynical? — question. They find the 11 Republicans and three Democrats remaining in the White House race utterly unworthy of their support.

The State: More diploma options will create better SC workforce

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article54949365.html>

Thomas A. Wilson

South Carolina is considered one of the best states in the nation to do business, yet we are approaching a point where we will be unable to keep up with the workforce demands of business and industry. For far too long, the educational bureaucracy has forced students into a standard diploma track, removing their ability to follow any technical-field aspirations they may possess.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Statistics don't tell the whole story of Charleston region's recession recovery

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC05/160119450>

David Wren

With Boeing Co. building Dreamliners, Volvo and Daimler getting ready to build cars and vans, a burgeoning tech sector and a designation as the best small city in the U.S., you might think Charleston and the surrounding region have fully emerged from the Great Recession.

Post and Courier: S.C. police told to adjust Taser policies after federal court's excessive force ruling

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1610/160119505>

Andrew Knapp

South Carolina law enforcement agencies were told Friday to change their Taser policies after a federal court deemed it excessive force for officers to use stun guns on suspects who are simply trying to get away. The decision earlier in the week by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals centered on a mentally ill man's death in North Carolina, but it will have broad impact on officers in the Palmetto State, where the issue has arisen repeatedly.

Aiken Standard: S.C. seeks more than \$300K in food stamp fraud

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160115/AIK0101/160119574/sc-seeks-more-than-300k-in-food-stamp-fraud>

Derrek Asberry

The state of South Carolina is looking to cash in on approximately \$337,392.47 in restitution involving 99 cases of food stamp fraud, according to Attorney General Alan Wilson. Money recovered will come off the strength of a program launched in January 2015 targeting abuse of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Local News:

Post and Courier: New charter school for at-risk boys approved for 2016-2017 school year

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160116/PC16/160119449>

Deanna Pan

Black boys are falling behind — at least that's what the data show. They're overrepresented in special education classes, they're more likely to read below grade level, and they're less likely to participate in gifted and talented programs. Nationally, they're suspended at a rate three times greater than white boys.

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