

Title: **Gov. Haley to speak Wednesday of 'a New South'**
 Author: BY SCHUYLER KROPF skropf@postandcourier.com
 Size: 31.62 square inch
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Gov. Haley to speak Wednesday of 'a New South'

BY SCHUYLER KROPF
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Gov. Nikki Haley will use her appearance at the National Press Club on Wednesday to say South Carolina is more racially tolerant than not, and that the violent incidents seen in the Charleston community were not examples of what the state has achieved.

"With the grace of the aftermath of the Mother Emanuel church massacre, the world saw South Carolina as we are," Haley is scheduled to say, according to an excerpt provided by her office Tuesday.

"What I want to tell you is that we've been that way for some time now — it's just that a lot of people outside of our state never noticed. ...

"Today there truly is a New South. It is different in many ways, perhaps most especially in its attitudes toward race. We are still far from perfect. We still have our problems. There's

still a lot more to do. But the New South, in many ways, is a place to look toward, rather than to look away from, when it comes to race relations and racial advancement."

Haley is the invited guest of the press club in Washington where she is to deliver her address at 12:30 p.m.

She will also credit the Republican Party for embracing diversity, pointing to her rise, acceptance and victory in primaries and twice in general elections. Haley is the state's first female governor, and as an Indian-American, the state's first minority to be elected state executive.

Haley's comments come as her reaction to the shooting of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church, and of unarmed motorist Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer, has garnered her national attention.



Haley

Neither incident led to the sort of rioting seen in other parts of the country hit hard by gun violence in recent months.

Haley will then promote other achievements she says she wants to target in the remaining two years of her term.

"So there's jobs, and there's education," the speech copy says. "If we get those two things right, and nothing else, we make enormous progress for all people, most especially for those at the lower end of the economic scale.

"But let's be honest. Jobs and education are huge elements for creating opportunity for all. Jobs and education are the keys to the opportunity agenda. But when it comes to African-American communities in particular, there's also an equality agenda that goes further.

"There still remain the un-

finished goals of the civil rights movement. And the civil rights movement is a critical part of the American movement, and the American story. It's a movement in which every person, regardless of their skin color is treated equally under the law."

Democrats, meanwhile, used the timing of Haley's speech to note she was leaving the state when there are long-standing issues that need addressed, such as children riding school buses for 90 minutes or more.

"Tomorrow, Governor Haley travels to Washington, D.C., to rewrite her record in South Carolina while our children will spend hours traveling on outdated buses and crumbling roads to poorly funded schools. While she's speaking about leading 'the new south,' South Carolina children and working families are falling further and further behind," said Jaime Harrison, South Carolina Democratic Party chair, said in a media statement.

Title: **Defense officials to visit local Navy brig**
 Author: BY JOEL MILLMAN jmillman@postandcourier.com
 Size: 51.30 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289

Defense officials to visit local Navy brig

S.C. fights possible transfer of terrorists

BY JOEL MILLMAN
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Pentagon officials will be touring the Navy brig near Charleston on Wednesday to determine if it would be suitable for terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba if that prison is shut down, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's office said. Haley and other members of the Low-country's congressional delegation, has been an outspoken critic of the Obama administration's plan to close Gitmo and transfer the prisoners to the U.S. mainland.

Scott, R-S.C., along with Gov. Nikki Haley was invited to speak this week Please see **BRIG**, Page A8

Defense officials to tour local Navy brig

BRIG, from A1

Closing the prison at Guantanamo has been among President Barack Obama's priorities. To do so, however, would mean Congress agreeing to change a law that prohibits the transfer of any detainees from Guantanamo to the United States.

The Associated Press reported a similar assessment has already been conducted at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, which has been mentioned as another possible site for transferring Gitmo prisoners.

Haley and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback sent a joint letter in August to the Department of Defense vowing to block a

transfer of terrorists to their states. In the case of the brig, opponents have said they fear an escape or a terror attack on nearby civilian areas, which include schools, playgrounds and residences.

The Navy originally built the brig, located at the southern end of the Naval Weapons Station, as a medium-security holding site for military prisoners serving sentences of 10 years or less. But after 9/11, its mission expanded when terror detainee Yaser Esam Hamdi, an American citizen, was delivered there in 2002. He'd been captured on a battlefield in Afghanistan. Two other high-profile inmates soon fol-

lowed, including Jose Padilla and Ali Saleh al-Marri, a Qatari arrested in Illinois as an alleged al-Qaida associate.

Since 2002, when the first detainee arrived, 780 people have been held at Guantanamo Bay, according to an analysis by The New York Times and NPR; 116 prisoners remain, the data shows. The possibility of the brig being used for detainees has surfaced several times in recent years, with residents and lawmakers opposing the idea.

Last week, Scott said he's seen nothing in any of the prisoner-transfer discussions that makes the nation safer.

"It is unbelievable that the

at the National Press Club in Washington and will be out of state on Wednesday. Her office said Tuesday it had not been notified about the visit to the Naval Consolidated Brig in Hanahan.

as just a short drive from one of the biggest tourist destinations in the world, is a better option for housing dangerous terrorists than Guantanamo Bay," he said. "These detainees are the worst of the worst, including planners of the September 11th attacks and the attack on the USS Cole. They should stay right where they are — in cells at the prison on Guantanamo Bay."

Schuyler Kropf contributed to this report.

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FILE/BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

The Charleston Naval Consolidated Brig at Joint Base Charleston in Hanahan is considered a leading contender to take some of the detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pentagon officials are scheduled to visit the site on Wednesday.

Title: **Mt. Pleasant divided over short-term home rentals**
 Author: BY ALLISON PRANG aprang@postandcourier.com
 Size: 40.61 square inch
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Mt. Pleasant divided over short-term home rentals

Residents address pros, cons of options in 'sharing economy'

BY ALLISON PRANG
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MOUNT PLEASANT — Local residents were divided Tuesday about short-term home rentals being offered through websites like Airbnb, one of the challenges municipalities face in getting a handle on the growing trend.

While advocates pointed to the free-enterprise attributes of the so-called sharing economy at a Mount Pleasant public forum, opponents cited concerns about the impact short-term renters could have on quiet residential neighborhoods.

Depending on where they live, some Mount Pleasant residents must be approved and licensed as a bed-and-breakfast operation to legally rent some or all of their primary homes

for less than 28 days.

Melissa Carter, a lobbyist for the Municipal Association of South Carolina, compared the issue to Uber, the app-based transportation provider that competes with taxicabs. The state began regulating it and other ride-hailing services under a bill Gov. Nikki Haley signed earlier this summer.

"We started this phenomenon in the Statehouse ... dealing with Uber," Carter said at Tuesday's forum. "In the grand scheme of things, it's the same concept for us, ... how to deal with it statewide."

South Carolina legislators have recently proposed bills that would require "a third party who accepts an

accommodation charge," including "a short-term rental listing service" like Airbnb, to pay a tax, just as hotels do.

The growing trend has been a blessing for some, like Laurie Bixler. She said she and her husband began renting a guest apartment at their home to short-term tenants after the recession, before Airbnb came along. She said the income she and her husband earned helped save them from financial ruin.

"We sold everything we owned ... we paid every tax and we ended up with nothing," she said.

Please see **RENTALS**, Page B3

Mount Pleasant divided over rentals

RENTALS, from B1

The couple used the newfound income to pay for their primary home.

"We're still here," Bixler said.

She also said they've paid \$47,500 in taxes to rent the unit.

"I am the story that needs to stand in front of you to tell you that we are good neighbors," Bixler said. "There is a place for us here."

The forum included representatives from the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Mount Pleasant Business Association.

"This is something that is on the radar for us and something that we are monitoring carefully," said attorney Chris Staubes, president of the business association.

Other residents, including Tommy Knisley, said short-term rentals are a bad idea in areas designed to be primary residences.

"Neighbors don't want people coming for a week at a time," Knisley said. "There's a place for rental properties at the beaches or other neighborhoods, but not neighborhoods that have covenants and restrictions that help them guide and manage the

community."

Michelle Andrews told forum organizers she, too, was opposed.

"I wish we had more people invited to sit at the table who were neighbors of the houses that are being rented out," she said. "That is a business. That is a business operating in a residential neighborhood."

Charles Watts, a local resident who uses Airbnb to rent space, said he wants the town to study the expenses and time associated with requiring short-term rental hosts to get licenses.

"I believe that you guys need to

do a cost-benefit analysis," Watts said during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Town Councilman Mark Smith said Tuesday's public forum was "the beginning of a discussion that needs to continue to happen in the town of Mount Pleasant, throughout our state and actually across the country regarding ... the short-term rentals as they relate to different municipalities and how we want to handle that."

Reach **Allison Prang** at 937-5705 or follow her on Twitter @AllisonPrang.

Title: **Domestic violence issue not just another report**
 Author:
 Size: 39.83 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



■ OUR VIEW

Domestic violence issue not just another report

Gov. Nikki Haley deserves accolades for appointing a task force that has delved into the state's horrific domestic violence problem. That group has unearthed some equally horrific information about how domestic violence cases are handled statewide by law enforcement, pointing up a clear need for vast improvements in 911 and officer training. What happens next, after the task force's fact gathering is complete, will make all the difference in how well South Carolina combats the crime that is a scourge on our state.

As the governor noted during a press conference Monday, much of what the group found defies common sense. An example she cited: Officers do not routinely interview children at the scene of a domestic violence call, nor do they always document that the children were even witnesses to begin with. This points up an obvious flaw in that the abuser can intimidate a child with a glaring look.

Perhaps even more unbelievable is that officers do not, as a matter of routine, take photos at the crime scene. Photos of the surroundings, which are often in great disarray during a domestic dispute, would be extremely relevant evidence, as would photographs of a victim's wounds. Furthermore, Haley said, the task force found that 911 operators are not properly or adequately trained in handling domestic violence calls.

There is much South Carolina can and should be proud of, but its rankings year after year as one of the nation's worst in terms of women killed by their spouses and partners is not one of those. There exist many reasons we can point to for why domestic violence is so prevalent in our state, and addressing the issue will not be handled overnight. Greater penalties? Certainly. Better training for 911 operators and more stringent guidelines for law enforcement to follow? Certainly. But we cannot ignore cultural influences, either.

The adage goes "the family that prays together, stays together." That may be true, but equally true is the family that experiences abuse together, abuses. Domestic violence is cyclical, it is learned behavior. One's environment influences one's behavior. And so it is equally important that we address the domestic violence scourge through education and behavior modification.

We won't end domestic violence a year from now, two years from now. In fact, we won't end it at all. But we can and absolutely must take steps to significantly reduce it, breaking the cycle whenever and wherever we can.

We hope more comes from Haley's task force, and that its findings do not become nothing more than another study collecting dust on yet another government shelf.



Title: **House Ethics: Bobby Harrell improperly paid his lawyers**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 45.57 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494

House Ethics: Bobby Harrell improperly paid his lawyers

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Former South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell improperly paid his attorneys last year with campaign money and therefore must hand over \$113,475 to the state, the House Ethics Committee ruled Tuesday.

The committee voted unanimously to require the chamber's former leader to pay the state's general fund within 30 days. Ordinarily, the committee would require offenders to reimburse their campaign fund, but Harrell had to empty his account as part of his plea deal last fall for misusing campaign donations.

In an email later Tuesday, Harrell said the vote violated his due process rights.

"All of this was done without any notice to me of the meeting and without affording me the opportunity to be heard by the committee," Harrell wrote, adding he was at the hospital for the birth of his first grandchild and would happily address the matter more after his granddaughter is home.

Ethics Committee Chairman Kenny Bingham said no hearing was needed. He said Harrell's attorneys were told months ago the committee was looking into the payments and declined to provide additional explanation.

Bingham said the payments to Harrell's attorneys last April and July — totaling \$70,475 to one attorney and \$43,000 to another — would have been permissible if the Charleston Republican had ultimately been cleared of wrongdoing. But he said a 2013 committee opinion shows why the conviction made that improper.

In the opinion, regarding the 2012 election mess in which hundreds of candidates were tossed off ballots, the committee "narrowly determines" that campaign donations can be used to pay legal expenses. But it cautions against using campaign

cash in lawsuits resulting from personal misconduct. Ultimately, the opinion concludes, the facts of each case determine whether a payment is allowed.

"Everything is fact specific. You can use your attorney fees to protect yourself and protect your office and make sure that elections run smoothly," said Bingham, R-Cayce. "What you can't do is use attorney fees for personal misconduct."

The committee did not tack on any fees or fines. Harrell reported the attorney payments on his July and October 2014 campaign disclosure filings. Bingham said Harrell's attorneys were reminded of the 2013 opinion before the payments were made, but his committee had to await the case's outcome to review whether they were appropriate.

Harrell, who had been speaker since 2005, pleaded guilty last October to six misdemeanor campaign finance violations, though he continued to disagree with the charges. Prosecutors said he improperly used campaign donations to pay for

flights on his private plane.

He was sentenced to three years of probation and had to resign the seat he'd held for more than two decades. He was also ordered to empty his campaign account and pay \$93,000 to the general fund, as well as a \$30,000 fine — the maximum on the charges.

In July 2012, Gov. Nikki Haley used \$50,000 from her campaign account to pay attorneys who defended her against accusations before the House Ethics Committee that she illegally lobbied for two former employers while representing Lexington in the House.

Bingham said that was different because the committee cleared her of the charges. He also noted Haley's issue was not before his committee.

Bingham was elected House Ethics chairman in December 2012, after the House passed a new rule expanding the committee to have an equal number of Republicans and Democrats.



BOBBY HARRELL

Title: **Pentagon to survey South Carolina brig as a possible replacement for Guantanamo**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 26.19 square inch
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



Pentagon to survey South Carolina brig as a possible replacement for Guantanamo

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A Pentagon team is coming to South Carolina this week to evaluate whether the Navy brig near Charleston could be suitable to house detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, officials said Tuesday.

A small team will visit the brig Wednesday and Thursday, said Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Defense Department spokesman.

"These site surveys are necessary to determine potential locations for detaining a limited number of individuals in

the United States, and to assess the costs associated with doing so. Prudent planning and site visits are necessary in order to assess all potential locations and costs associated with any potential options," Ross said in an emailed statement.

Closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center has been a top priority for President Barack Obama. The effort has faced hurdles, including staunch opposition among both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

About 52 of the 116 current detainees have been cleared for release. The remaining 64 have

been deemed too dangerous.

A similar assessment has already been conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Gov. Nikki Haley and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback wrote last week to Defense Secretary Ash Carter, threatening to sue the Obama administration if detainees are brought to either state.

Both the House and Senate versions of the 2016 federal defense policy bill maintain prohibitions on transferring detainees to U.S. facilities. The Senate legislation, however, allows the restrictions to be lifted if the White House sub-

mits a plan to close the facility and it's approved by Congress.

House and Senate negotiators are working to reconcile the two bills.

South Carolina's Navy brig has previously held a man accused in an al-Qaida terror plotter. Jose Padilla, a U.S. citizen, was held there for more than three years without charge as an enemy combatant before he was indicted in Miami.

A jury found Padilla guilty in 2007. He's serving a 21-year prison sentence.

Title: **HouseEthics:Harrellimproperly paidlawyersfromcampaign**
 Author:
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House Ethics: Harrell improperly paid lawyers from campaign

Panel orders former S.C. House speaker to pay \$113,000 to the state

Bobby Harrell says in email his due process rights were violated because he had no notice of the ethics committee meeting

COLUMBIA

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In an email later Tues-

day, Harrell said the vote violated his due process rights.

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SEE HARRELL , 8A

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FROM PAGE 3A

HARRELL

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Harrell

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“WHAT YOU CAN'T DO IS USE ATTORNEY FEES FOR PERSONAL MISCONDUCT.”

*Kenny Bingham
Ethics Committee
Chairman*

Title: **'New' Six Mile Elementary school marks 25 years**
 Author: RON BARNETT STAFF WRITER RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 52.23 square inch
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'New' Six Mile Elementary school marks 25 years

Time capsule
unearthed for
celebration

RON BARNETT

STAFF WRITER

RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

SIX MILE — Time passes a little slower in a town like Six Mile, but folks around here still call Six Mile Elementary the "new" school, 25 years after it opened its doors for the first time.

On Monday, the school celebrated its quarter-century in the "new" building on the edge of a pasture at the foot of Six Mile Mountain.

The ceremony drew a few former students who were here on Thursday, Aug. 30, 1990, when then-Gov. Carroll Campbell dedicated the school, and when a time capsule containing artifacts of the era was buried next to the flag pole.

"You are our future leaders, you are our super heroes," Principal Clif Alexander told the former students, making reference to the school's theme for the year. "We know that you are going to make the world a much, much better place in years to come."

Six school employees, including one teacher, who were on the job in 1990 are still here, preparing yet another generation who will be around for when the next time capsule is opened in 2035.

Lucille Garrett, 99, was among the dignitaries who attended Monday's celebration. The school was built on farmland where she lived, just beyond the pecan trees across the pasture.

"Home is a place that grounds us, that ties us to our roots," the principal told his 430 students, seated on sidewalks wearing blue and yellow T-shirts for the occasion. "And this rural school has been home to generations."

Actually, this is the fourth home of Six Mile Elementary.

The first opened 105 years ago in a church, the principal said. The time capsule that was buried Monday will be unearthed 125 years after that first school opened.

Alexander's grandfather of the same name was the first principal of the third school, which opened a half-mile down the road in 1955. That building still stands.

Part of the Daniel High attendance area, Six Mile Elementary has excelled in preparing students whose graduation rates and college entrance exam scores rate among the highest in the state, Superintendent Danny Merck

said.

"Six Mile Elementary is a model school for public education," he said. "The foundation for learning has occurred here."

The time capsule was a lesson in history itself.

Among the artifacts secured in the clear plastic box was a copy of *The Greenville News* from the day of the dedication.

The lead story was about the first Gulf War and unfulfilled pledges of a dictator named Saddam Hussain.

Another story was about the FBI's "Lost Trust" investigation of corruption in the South Carolina Legislature.

Another was about students at the University of Florida fleeing town by the thousands amid panic over a stalker who had killed five victims in the college town.

The local story on the front page was about an environmentalist calling himself Forest Green who climbed up in a white pine tree in the path of a logging road under construction in the Sumter National Forest in Oconee County. The same reporter who wrote the story you are reading wrote that one.

Other items in the time

capsule included a tennis ball, a spiral notebook and pencil, an Issaqueena Festival T-shirt, New Kids on the Block buttons and cards, programs from the school dedication, photos of downtown Six Mile, Ninja Turtles, Just Say No buttons, a Frisbee, some flower seeds, and clips from *The Greenville News* and other local newspapers about the soon-to-open school.

State Rep. Gary Clary read a letter from Gov. Nikki Haley, who was unable to attend Monday's celebration.

"While I'm sure some of you will be amazed by the awesome changes that have taken place since this school first opened its doors," wrote the governor, who was 18 when the "new" school was built.

The band from Edwards Middle School played the national anthem, the students sang "Happy Birthday" to the school.

And 25 blue and yellow balloons were released into the clear blue sky and began drifting slowly toward the blue mountains in the distance, and into the next 25 years.

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Author: RON BARNETT STAFF WRITER RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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RON BARNETT/STAFF

A time capsule is unearthed Monday after 25 years, in celebration of Six Mile Elementary School's quarter-century at its current building.



Title: **Haley: 'New South' can lead in race relations**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 50.06 square inch
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Haley: 'New South' can lead in race relations

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley said Wednesday that South Carolina has shown that racial progress comes from listening to, not shouting at, one another.

Noting the deaths of unarmed black men in cities across the country, Haley told the National Press Club in the nation's capital that black lives do matter.

But they've been "disgracefully jeopardized" by the Black Lives Matter movement "that has laid waste" to

Ferguson, Missouri and Baltimore, she said to applause.

South Carolina's first minority governor called the riots in those communities senseless, saying they primarily harmed black residents and the businesses that serve them. And, she added, "most of the people who now live in terror because local police are too intimidated to do their jobs are black."

"In South Carolina, we did things differently," she said in her speech, titled "Lessons from the New South."

Please see **HALEY**, Page 14A

HALEY

CONTINUED from 1A

She noted there was no violence after black motorist Walter Scott was gunned down in April while running from a white North Charleston officer, nor after a mass shooting in June of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston.

The victims' families taught everyone that love and a willingness to listen are the paths to racial reconciliation, Haley said.

"As a state, we came together — black and white, Republicans and Democrats," she said. "We didn't have riots, we had vigils. We didn't have violence, we had hugs."

That approach produced results, she said:

- After Scott's death, the officer was quickly charged with murder after a bystander came forward with cellphone video of the shooting. Two months later, she signed a police body-

camera law, with Scott's family attending.

- Less than a month after the slayings at "Mother Emanuel" AME Church, the Confederate battle flag that had flown on Statehouse grounds for 54 years came down.

"If we scream less, and listen more, we can make a lot of progress. We can do it together," Haley said. "And I couldn't be more proud that it is the New South — my South — that's pointing us in the right direction."

Her speech in Washington, D.C., comes amid speculation she will be in contention next year as a running mate for the Republican presidential nominee.

The national profile of the 43-year-old governor has risen since she successfully called on legislators to send the Confederate flag to a state museum. But Haley has previously dismissed questions on how the attention affects her

political future.

On Wednesday, however, she said she would "of course" sit down and talk if the eventual GOP nominee approaches her. She would not repeat her previous pledge to serve out her second term.

But she did offer advice to her party.

Haley said that while she strongly believes Republican policies on education and jobs offer the best way to lift up all people, the GOP does a "shameful" job communicating with minorities.

"The problem for our party is that our approach often appears cold and unwelcoming to minorities," she said. "It's on us to communicate our positions in ways that wipe away the clutter of prejudices."

Haley said South Carolina's come a long way since her childhood in tiny Bamberg.

The daughter of Indian immigrants said she would not have won a four-way Repub-

lican primary in 2010 and gone on to become the nation's youngest governor if South Carolinians were racially intolerant.

"With the grace of the aftermath of the Mother Emanuel church massacre, the world saw South Carolina as we are," she said. "We've been that way for some time now — it's just that a lot of people outside of our state never noticed."

South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Jaime Harrison said Haley's trying to rewrite her record.

He pointed to a legislative panel's findings, reported Monday, that many students spend up to three hours daily on a school bus.

Harrison also notes Haley has refused to expand Medicaid under the federal health care law and has opposed efforts to raise the gas tax to fund roadwork.

Title: **Haley: 'New South' can lead in race relations**
Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

Gov. Nikki Haley, R-S.C., delivers a speech on "Lessons from the New South" during a luncheon at the National Press Club on Wednesday.

Title: **Haley: 'Of course I will sit down, talk' about a VP spot**

Author: BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS AND DAVID LIGHTMAN McClatchy Washington Bureau

Size: 72.85 square inch

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Haley: 'Of course I will sit down, talk' about a VP spot

Governor speaks to National Press Club

GOP's communication with minorities has been 'shameful'

Black lives matter, she says, but blames movement for violence

BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS
AND DAVID LIGHTMAN

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

Is she selling the New South or auditioning for a 2016 presidential campaign spot?

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is generating buzz that she will be in the mix for the Republican vice presidential spot in 2016, following her successful handling of the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds after the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans

inside a historic Charleston church.

Appearing Wednesday at the National Press Club, Haley teetered between deflective and receptive of the VP talk. At first, she dismissed it as a way-too-early political exercise, given that 17 Republicans still are elbowing each other to win the GOP presidential nomination.

"I'm not wasting any energy or any time think-

ing about that because I've got too much to do," Haley said after her speech. "I'm trying to continue to heal the state, we're trying to get back on track because we lost time, getting ready for a legislative session. ... I've got a son in middle school. I got a daughter who's a senior in high school. I've got a husband who just came back from Afghanistan."

That said, she added, "If there's a time where a

presidential nominee wants to sit down and talk, of course I will sit down and talk."

Since the Confederate flag debate erupted, Haley has seen her star rise on the national stage.

She was the featured speaker at the Republican National Committee summer meeting in Cleveland last month. She engaged

THESTATE.COM

Read Gov. Haley's D.C. speech online

SEE GOVERNOR, 6A

FROM PAGE 3A

GOVERNOR

in a question-and-answer session before the attendees with RNC chairman Reince Priebus, recounting the steps that led to the flag's removal.

"If we can do that in South Carolina, just think what we can do across our country," she said at the RNC meeting.

She impressed the Cleveland audience. Ada Fisher, an RNC member from North Carolina, called Haley "a beautiful woman." Juliana Bergeron, an RNC member from New Hampshire, said Haley "stepped up on

the Confederate flag. She didn't wait until people told her to do something."

Haley checks several boxes that Republicans would like to consider when crafting a presidential ticket: Southerner, minority, woman, conservative. None of this suggests Haley is a favorite to go on a presidential ticket. The memory of her Confederate flag stance will fade. "You have to keep doing things to be visible," said Solomon Yue, an RNC member from Oregon. "And you have to show consistency."

While Haley has become popular outside South Carolina, she's had a tenuous relationship with the state's Republican-dominated legislature. She fought the General Assembly over government restructuring and revamping ethics rules.

"To people outside the state, she comes across like the new face of the Republican Party," said Scott Huffmon, director of the Winthrop University poll. "In South Carolina, she's very divisive, even within her own party. There's no love lost for

her in the Legislature."

In Washington Wednesday, Haley portrayed herself as a daughter of a new South, an Indian-American who's helping her state come to grips with its

racial past while steering an economic renaissance as it shifts from a reliance on textiles to automotive, aviation and high-tech jobs.

The murders in Charleston and the removal of the Confederate flag thrust Haley and South Carolina into the spotlight in terms of race relations. But the second-term gov-

Title: **Haley: 'Of course I will sit down, talk' about a VP spot**

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ernor insists her election proves the racial climate in her state had improved even before the shootings.

"I would have not been elected governor of South Carolina if our state was a racially intolerant place," Haley said. "And I would not have won the Republican primary if we were a racially intolerant party."

Still, she seemed to

hide Republicans, saying, "The problem for our party is that our approach often appears cold and unwelcoming to minorities. That is shameful and it has to change."

"That is not just a black and white thing," Haley said. "For Indian- and Asian-Americans, for Jewish-Americans, for Mexican-Americans, our

party and our principles have so much to offer. It's on us to communicate our positions in ways that wipe away the clutter of the problems."

Haley said "black lives matter," a phrase that several presidential candidates have been reluctant or refused to use. But she also appeared to criticize the Black Lives Matters movement for the vio-

lence in Baltimore, New York and Ferguson, Mo., following the deaths of black men by police.

"Black lives do matter, and they have been disgracefully jeopardized by the movement that has laid waste to Ferguson and Baltimore," she said. "In South Carolina, we did things differently."

— ANDREW SHAIN OF THE STATE CONTRIBUTED



EVAN VUCCI Associated Press

Gov. Nikki Haley, R-S.C., speaks at the National Press Club on Wednesday in Washington.