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Subject: Clips – Saturday, February 20, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

CNN: Marco Rubio's South Carolina strategy: Another 3rd place victory

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/19/politics/marco-rubio-south-carolina-third-place/index.html>

Tal Kopan

Marco Rubio has one mission in South Carolina: Beat John Kasich and Jeb Bush. Soundly. And as a result, present a new face of the GOP that plays to Rubio's strengths.

Note: "Take a picture of this, because the new group of conservatives that's taking over America looks like a Benetton commercial," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said as she closed Rubio's Greenville rally here Thursday standing alongside African-American Sen. Tim Scott, young GOP star Rep. Trey Gowdy and the Cuban-American Rubio.

USA Today: Rubio to S.C. voters: 'This election is a generational choice'

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/02/19/marco-rubio-nikki-haley-tim-scott-south-carolina-primary/80629800/>

David M. Jackson

Marco Rubio is hoping a political all-star team can help him score big in South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott toured the state with the Florida senator Friday as he looked for uncommitted voters ahead of Saturday's primary. "This election is a generational choice," the 44-year-old Rubio told supporters gathered in the gym at R.B. Stall High School, flanked by the equally youngish Haley and Scott.

Note: Haley said that a President Rubio can reduce federal government regulations that burden states. "The hardest part of my job is the federal government each and every day," the governor said.

WSPA: GOP Candidates Make Final Push on Eve of SC Primary

<http://wspa.com/2016/02/19/gop-candidates-make-final-push-on-eve-of-sc-primary/>

Addie Hampton

Saturday, South Carolina will choose a winner in the state Republican primary. All six GOP candidates have crisscrossed the state for nearly two weeks hoping to win your vote. From humanizing moments to tensions with religious leaders, the countdown to Saturday's primary has been anything but dull in the Palmetto State.

Note: "We need to show that South Carolina makes presidents and that our next President will be Marco Rubio," shouted Governor Nikki Haley during a Rubio Campaign event in Greenville, Thursday.

Note: Haley gave Rubio her coveted endorsement to the disappointment of Governor Jeb Bush, whose campaign team was hoping to defy expectations here in the state, despite low polling numbers.

WJCL: Gov. Haley and Sen. Scott campaign for Rubio in Hilton Head

<http://www.wjcl.com/news/local-news/gov-haley-and-sen-scott-campaign-for-rubio-in-hilton-head/146699848/story>

Tory Simkovic

Marco Rubio made one final push for Beaufort County voters on Friday, campaigning with Senator Tim Scott and Governor Nikki Haley at the Hilton Head Airport. Haley, who announced her endorsement on Wednesday, called the trio "the new face of the conservative movement." She encouraged voters to get out and vote for Rubio.

Note: "Make sure we have someone who goes to D.C. and, more important than anything else, brings conscience back to the Republican Party," Gov. Haley said.

New York Times: Republicans Speed Across South Carolina as Race Tightens

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/20/us/politics/republicans-speed-across-south-carolina-as-race-tightens.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0

Ashley Parker, Matt Flegenheimer

The Republican presidential candidates hurtled across South Carolina on Friday, one day before the state's primary, as polls showed the race tightening after an often nasty week of campaigning. Across the country in Nevada, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton tried to lock down supporters in the fiercely contested caucuses there.

Note: In a show of force intended to underscore his message of ushering in a new generation of Republican stars, Mr. Rubio was flanked by the political leaders here who have endorsed him — a diverse lot that included Gov. Nikki R. Haley, an Indian-American; Tim Scott, a United States senator who is black; and Trey Gowdy, a popular congressman who is white.

Note: "The new conservative movement looks like a Benetton commercial," Ms. Haley shouted to the crowd, which she beckoned to join her and Mr. Rubio on stage.

New York Times: Voters in South Carolina and Nevada May Answer Questions on Campaign

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/21/us/politics/south-carolina-nevada.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Patrick Healy

Nevada Democrats and South Carolina Republicans will start resolving the most pressing political questions about the presidential race on Saturday when their parties hold the next round of what have become unexpectedly fierce nominating contests.

Note: He will also put the political power of South Carolina Republican leaders to the test, given that several prominent officials – Gov. Nikki R. Haley, Senator Tim Scott, and Representative Trey Gowdy – have endorsed him.

Note: With evangelical voters split among several candidates, Mr. Rubio is counting on voters who respect Governor Haley and the others to support him in hopes of thwarting Mr. Trump and increasing Mr. Rubio's chances in the other Southern contests to come.

WPDE: Marco Rubio draws hundreds to rescheduled rally in Pawleys Island late Friday night

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/article61473852.html#storylink=cpy>

Friday night, Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio took the stage at a rally at Lowcountry Preparatory School in Pawleys Island, just nine hours before polls open in South Carolina for the primary election. Rubio was set to host the town hall there at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, but the event was canceled about 15 minutes before it was expected to begin.

Note: He was joined on stage by Governor Nikki Haley, who endorsed Rubio earlier in the week, and U.S. Senator Tim Scott.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Rubio wins Spartanburg County GOP straw poll

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20160219/articles/160219530>

Allison M. Roberts

Donald Trump may have had the edge in the last state polls taken before Saturday's GOP primary, but Florida Sen. Marco Rubio came out on top in a straw poll of local Republicans. The Spartanburg County Republican Party conducted the poll during its annual Bronze Elephant dinner Friday night.

RedState: Nikki Haley Tells SC Crowd Rubio's Campaign Looks Like 'A Benetton Commercial'

<http://www.redstate.com/absentee/2016/02/19/nikki-haley-tells-sc-crowd-rubios-campaign-looks-like-benetton-commercial/>

Caleb Howe

At a Marco Rubio campaign event on Thursday in Greenville, South Carolina, Governor Nikki Haley appeared on stage with the Senator as well as Senator Tim Scott and Congressman Trey Gowdy. At the end of Rubio's remarks, Gov. Haley took the microphone and said something the Ann Coulters of the world will certainly be scummy about:

Note: Nikki Haley's point is obvious. You can feel free and comfortable supporting a Republican, no matter what your heritage. That's not a wrong message, it's a right one. It's a Right one. And unlike Ann Coulter or other Trump xenophobes, it's something we should not be afraid of pointing out.

Associated Press: Republicans face off in S. Carolina; Dems battle in Nevada

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hjg8qINF

Julie Pace, Bill Barrow

After a week of bitter attacks, Republicans face off Saturday in South Carolina's presidential primary, a contest that could determine Donald Trump's strength as a front-runner and help clarify whether a more mainstream politician will ever emerge to challenge him.

Note: Rubio scored the endorsements of several prominent South Carolina politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley, and seems to have rebounded after a dismal debate performance two weeks ago. Bush hopes his deep family ties to South Carolina - his brother and father each won two primaries here - will be a lifeline for his struggling campaign.

NBC News: Pro-Cruz Robocall Attacks Trump Over South Carolina Confederate Flag

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/pro-cruz-robocall-attacks-trump-over-south-carolina-confederate-flag-n522131>

Vaugh Hillyard

A pro-Ted Cruz super PAC launched a robocall on Thursday night to Republicans across South Carolina, attacking Donald Trump's support for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the state's Capitol grounds last summer.

Note: Haley, the governor of South Carolina, endorsed Cruz's other main rival, Marco Rubio, on Wednesday.

Note: Haley called for removing the battle flag from the Capitol grounds and the state legislature voted to bring it down after a white gunman fatally shot nine people at a historic black church in Charleston in a racially-motivated attack.

Post and Courier: Pro-Ted Cruz robocall blasting Trump and Gov. Haley on Confederate flag

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC1603/160219283>

Schuyler Kropf

A pro-Ted Cruz robocall is blasting Donald Trump for butting his nose into the debate about the Confederate battle flag coming down at the Statehouse. The recorded message, which is going out to South Carolina Republicans, also takes a jab at Gov. Nikki Haley — even though Trump and Haley are far from politically aligned on much heading into Saturday's primary.

Associated Press: AP News Guide: South Carolina, Nevada step up in 2016 race

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cVO6KUUD

Calvin Woodward

South Carolinians place their stamp on the chaotic Republican presidential campaign Saturday while Nevadans put Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders to their first test before an ethnically varied electorate in the Democratic contest. On the Republican side, the presidential hopes of Jeb Bush, Ben Carson and John Kasich may hang in the balance.

Note: On the plus side: his strongest debate performance and a lively show of support from his brother, George W. Bush, in a state where people think fondly of the ex-president. On the down side, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Rubio, a dispiriting turn for the ex-governor of Florida.

WCBD: Senator Marco Rubio campaigning in North Charleston

<http://counton2.com/2016/02/20/senator-marco-rubio-campaigning-in-north-charleston/>

Raymond Owens

Senator Marco Rubio held a campaign rally Friday afternoon at Stall High School in North Charleston. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was the first to take the stage and explain why she supports Rubio. Then, Senator Tim Scott walked out to show support for Rubio and say he was glad to be back at his old high school.

S.C. Presidential Primary News:

The State: SC GOP primary day: Can anyone stop Trump?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61408682.html>

Andrew Shain

South Carolina voters finally will learn Saturday if the season of the insurgent political candidate is real. Political newcomer Donald Trump is leading the pack into Saturday's S.C. Republican primary, according to polls.

Marco Rubio: The U.S. senator from Florida wants to come out of South Carolina as the candidate of the GOP establishment. He has a chance with S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's recent endorsement and rising poll numbers, some of which show him challenging Cruz for second.

MSNBC: Latest polling out of South Carolina raises Republican eyebrows

<http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/latest-polling-out-south-carolina-raises-republican-eyebrows>

Steve Benen

The critically important Republican presidential primary in South Carolina is tomorrow, and after a period of relative silence from pollsters, we've received quite a bit of data over the last several days. We talked on Tuesday about the PPP results. On Wednesday, we considered a CNN poll.

Note: Note, both of these polls were conducted after Saturday night's debate, and mostly before South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's (R) high-profile endorsement of Rubio.

Post and Courier: Best-case, worse-case scenarios for GOP presidential hopefuls

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC1603/160219275>

Schuyler Kropf

Eleven months after Texas Sen. Ted Cruz became the first Republican to officially announce a bid for the White House, Donald Trump is on the verge of winning the South's first big prize. Most surveys indicate Trump will finish first in Saturday's GOP primary by a wide margin, dissing the establishment in a year when the rules are being rewritten by his populist message.

Note: Still, there are multiple story lines yet to play out: Who will finish in second place? How much will Marco Rubio profit from Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement?

New York Times: Donald Trump in Triage Mode After Shocking Conservatives With Health Care Comments

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/20/us/politics/donald-trump-in-triage-mode-after-shocking-conservatives-with-health-care-comments.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Alan Rappeport

He has broken with many Republicans on taxing the rich, threatening trade wars and keeping Planned Parenthood alive. On Friday, Donald J. Trump faced criticism for an even bolder act of conservative heresy: embracing the core tenet of the Affordable Care Act.

The State: 'The winner of both primaries is the economy'

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article61388022.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Each year, hoteliers in Columbia eagerly await weekends in the fall, when tens of thousands of rabid football fans sell out hotels for University of South Carolina Gamecock football games. But for David Erbacher, director of sales for the new Hyatt Place Columbia/Downtown, there's no bigger game than the presidential primaries.

Post and Courier: In an era of polarity, S.C.'s millennial voters find common ground on social, economic issues

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC16/160219270>

Abigail Darlington

When it comes to drugs, gay rights and other social issues, millennial voters in South Carolina are often on the same page. But whether their voices will make a difference in the state's primaries remains to be seen. The Post and Courier interviewed about two dozen voters in the 18-35 age bracket this week and found many shared similar concerns and viewpoints on social issues, regardless of party affiliation.

Post and Courier: Three GOP leaders make their last-ditch push through Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC1603/160219264>

Schuyler Kropf

From the hills to the coast, the Republicans who want to be the next president of the United States campaigned long after the sun set Friday night. By Saturday morning, picking a winner is up to you. Friday saw a flurry of activity as the three leading candidates — Donald Trump, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio — all held big rallies in the Charleston area, where its mix of students, suburbanites, retirees and party faithful still leaves portions of the region's huge GOP electorate up for grabs.

The State: Kasich's emotional moment with young supporter goes viral

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article61362957.html>

Vera Bergengruen

It's been a hectic 24 hours for Brett Smith. The 21-year old University of Georgia student has been swamped by both media and messages of support since a video of his emotional hug with Republican candidate John Kasich on Thursday went viral online.

Post and Courier: John Kasich says 'the hug' viral video is indicative of positive campaign

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC1603/160219277>

Maya T. Prabhu

An emotional moment at Clemson University between presidential candidate John Kasich and a teary college student has drawn national attention to the Ohio governor in the final stretch before South Carolina's Republican primary Saturday.

Post and Courier: Sanford, 'Duck Dynasty' star stump for Cruz

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC16/160219291>

Brenda Rindge

More than 650 folks filled the seats at the College of Charleston's Sottile Theatre and more were relegated to a nearby classroom where they watched the 90-minute rally on closed-captioned TV as Cruz, who is running second in South Carolina, implored voters to devote the final hours voting on Saturday to prayer and rallying friends and family members to vote.

The State: Duck Dynasty star stumps for Ted Cruz

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61421867.html>

Cassie Cope

Phil Robertson, of the reality TV show Duck Dynasty, appealed Friday to Christians to support Ted Cruz. "South Carolina, I'm a Jesus man," Robertson told the crowd at a Cruz rally. Robertson brought up social issues, including abortion and gay marriage, as he addressed Cruz supporters at an airplane hangar, near the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

New York Times: Questionable Campaign Tactics Persist in South Carolina

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/20/us/politics/south-carolina-campaign-tricks.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Alan Rappeport

From Lee Atwater's whispers that a congressional candidate was psychotic to rumors that John McCain had fathered a black child out of wedlock to fake Mormon holiday cards supposedly sent by Mitt Romney, South Carolina is infamous for its dirty politics.

Associated Press: Top SC Democrat endorses Hillary Clinton, mending rift

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=YpO5YFHP

Jeffrey Collins

Jim Clyburn, South Carolina's top Democrat, endorsed Hillary Clinton for president Friday, mending a rift between the two that was much more personal than political. Clyburn said Friday "my heart has always been with Hillary Clinton," a sharp departure from eight years ago when former President Bill Clinton called him on the phone at 2:15 a.m. after his wife lost the 2008 South Carolina primary against Barack Obama.

Associated Press: Ted Cruz hopes his Texas charm hits home across the South

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pl2A1CT3

Will Weissert

"Texas and South Carolina, we share so much in common. Both are southern states, we're gun owners, military veterans, we love God," the Texas senator declared, sparking a standing ovation from about 400 supporters at an auditorium a block from Myrtle Beach's oceanfront boardwalk last week.

Rock Hill Herald: Record York County turnout expected Saturday in SC Republican primary

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/politics-government/article61283802.html>

Andrew Dys

Fueled by the insurgency of billionaire newcomer Donald Trump, York County Republicans are expecting to vote in record numbers Saturday in a primary that will smash 2012 totals by as much as 25 percent.

Associated Press: Jesse Jackson in South Carolina for voter drive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=ki34Nb04

Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson is touring South Carolina to encourage people to vote. The Greenville native points out there are 1.2 million African-Americans in the state who are eligible to vote. He says about 1 million of them are registered. Jackson says he is also urging South Carolina to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, where the federal government pays most of the cost.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: A South Carolina primer-y

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/op-ed/article61336882.html>

Kathleen Parker

Out on the hustings, people often ask me: "Can you explain South Carolina?" I just shake my head. It's complicated, I say. The simple answer, eternal and everlasting, is anti-secessionist James Petigru's remark: "South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum."

Post and Courier: Vote to stump Trump

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1002/160229919>

Editorial

So far, a multiplicity of polls make Donald Trump a solid favorite to win today's S.C Republican presidential primary. Added to his nearly 20-point victory margin in last week's New Hampshire primary, that would give the GOP front-runner more momentum going into the next series of contests.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Florence Morning News: Lawmakers talk roads, education at Florence Chamber Breakfast

http://www.scnow.com/news/article_3a3fbc98-d72c-11e5-8f37-bb14d60ba4ef.html

Joshua Lloyd

United States Rep. Tom Rice was joined Friday morning by several state representatives from the Pee Dee at a Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce breakfast to speak about pressing problems facing the state. Reps. Terry Alexander (D-Florence), Jay Jordan (R-Florence) and Roger Kirby (D-Florence) were there to talk about topics under debate in Columbia, namely infrastructure and road repair funding.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: As union talk recedes, Boeing's Wyse works to build 'healthy workforce strategy'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160219/PC05/160219279>

David Wren

It's been nearly a year since the International Association of Machinists union canceled plans to hold an election at Boeing Co.'s North Charleston campus, and Beverly Wyse says the sometimes-heated discussions that used to take place among workers on the production floor have all but disappeared.

Local News:

Anderson Independent: Educators says job training key to Oconee's economic development

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/educators-says-job-training-key-to-oconees-economic-development-2c2502ef-49e0-6ccc-e053-0100007fc99f-369480462.html>

Ray Chandler

A group of panelists in Oconee County said on Friday that workforce training is a top challenge in sustaining economic development. "There are jobs out there, good jobs, and there are not enough people to fill them," said Anthony Tosti, chief financial officer and managing director of the Seneca-based Greenfield Industries.

Brian Symmes

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