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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Red State: Nikki Haley is a Hero

<http://www.redstate.com/2016/01/14/nikki-haley-hero/>

Leon H. Wolf

Thank God for Nikki Haley. Everyone who is an even marginally public figure on the right knows by now that it's dangerous to point out that Donald Trump's popularity is in large part driven by xenophobia and intolerance that he personally is largely responsible for. Trump's supporters do not take criticism of Trump (or his policies or his rhetoric) the same way the supporters of other candidates do.

News India Times: Nikki Haley Arrives On National Stage Challenging Trump's 'Noise'

<http://www.newsindiatimes.com/nikki-haley-arrives-on-national-stage-challenging-trumps-noise>

Ela Dutt

Proudly proclaiming her Indian-American heritage, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley presented to the nation a kinder, gentler face of the Republican Party as she responded to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address Jan. 12.

Note: "A star was born tonight," said Van Jones, an African American commentator on CNN and a former official of the Obama administration, after Haley's speech which seemed to repudiate the harsh, divisive rhetoric that has been the hallmark of the GOP presidential primary campaign so far.

Note: Indian-American Republicans also see Haley as their rising star in the political firmament.

Associated Press: Top GOP female says judge Gov. Haley on ability, not looks

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

Erica Werner

The House's highest-ranking Republican woman said Thursday South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley should be judged on her abilities, not her looks, dismissing a remark by fellow Republican Rep. Steve King. At the GOP retreat, McMorris Rodgers defended Haley. "Nikki Haley is a proven leader. And that is what she should be judged on," the Washington state Republican told reporters.

Note: She added that Haley "should be on anyone's short list for vice president based upon her record, based upon her leadership, her record as governor in South Carolina and what she represents for the future."
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ABC News: Nikki Haley 'Beautiful' Remark Slammed by Top Woman in House

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/judge-nikki-haley-record-top-woman-house/story?id=36286764>

Ali Weinberg

The highest-ranking Republican woman in Congress said today South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's looks should not factor in to her suitability to represent the Republican Party, as conservative Rep. Steve King said Wednesday. "Nikki Haley is a proven leader. And that is what she should be judged on," Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, said.

Wall Street Journal: Nikki Haley to Meet With Chris Christie Ahead of GOP Debate

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2016/01/14/nikki-haley-to-meet-with-chris-christie-ahead-of-gop-debate/>

Heather Haddon

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley may be the target of ire from conservative commentators, but she's still getting love from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. The Republican presidential contender is set to sit down with Mrs. Haley before Thursday evening's GOP debate, according to a spokesman for Mrs. Haley. They are slated to sit down somewhere near the North Charleston Coliseum in North Charleston, S.C, where the debate will be held.

Politico: WSJ editorial: 'Deport Nikki Haley'

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/wsj-deport-nikki-haley-217752>

Nolan D. Mccaskill

Nikki Haley should be deported, a provocative headline from the Wall Street Journal editorial board reads in an article published Wednesday evening. But that headline, which mirrors a widely denounced tweet by Ann Coulter, is misleading: The editorial is actually a rousing defense of the South Carolina governor and newfound Republican lightning rod.

Washington Post: Nikki Haley didn't do Marco Rubio any favors on 'amnesty'

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/01/14/nikki-haleys-painful-flub-on-marco-rubio-and-amnesty/>

Aaron Blake

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's (R) stock as a Republican vice presidential contender was probably never higher than it was Wednesday -- the day after a widely praised Republican response to President Obama's State of the Union address. Some on the right weren't huge fans, but Haley's strong delivery and thoughtful message surely appealed to more mainstream Republicans -- and more mainstream GOP presidential candidates.

UPI: S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley walks back negative Rubio, Bush comments after 'long couple of days'

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/01/14/SC-Gov-Nikki-Haley-walks-back-negative-Rubio-Bush-comments-after-long-couple-of-days/2051452781935/

Amy R. Connolly

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley walked back negative comments she made about Republican presidential hopefuls Sen. Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, saying she misspoke after a "long couple of days."

Note: "I talked about Marco Rubio -- you know, I'm against his Gang of Eight bill. He is not for amnesty, but I was against his Gang of Eight bill," she told Fox News On the Record host Greta Van Susteren. "Gov. Bush, he supported Common Core, certainly didn't pass it, but supported it."

Post and Courier: Obama's budget proposal includes more federal money for Medicaid expansion

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC16/160119609>

Lauren Sausser

In an effort to sway South Carolina and 18 other states that have not yet expanded Medicaid eligibility through the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama wants to provide a financial incentive to lower some of the states' initial costs.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has staunchly opposed expanding Medicaid eligibility in South Carolina. The U.S. Supreme Court made it an optional provision of the health care law in 2012.

Note: More than 1 million South Carolinians are already enrolled in Medicaid. Haley has argued that this state can't afford to cover any more.

Note: "It's not surprising the Obama administration is touting Obamacare — but we know that it has been a disaster nationwide, and that it is wrong for South Carolina," said Haley press secretary Chaney Adams. "The governor is entirely comfortable with her decision, and will not change it."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Senators seek 5 percent raises for state employees

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

Seanna Adcox

A bipartisan group of senators said Thursday that all state employees should receive a 5 percent cost-of-living raise now that South Carolina's economy is rebounding. Sen. John Courson, R-Columbia, said it's time to say 'thank you' by passing a budget that increases paychecks in July. In a year when legislators have more than \$1 billion in additional revenue to spend, employees deserve to share in the state's prosperity, he said.

Post and Courier: Senators seeking 5 percent pay increase for state employees

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1603/160119617>

Maya T. Prabhu

State employees could get a 5 percent increase to their salaries beginning in July if a proposal announced by state senators Thursday is approved. Sen. John Courson, R-Columbia, said the \$75 million cost of the increase is needed for employees who have had to provide services to a state with a population that has

grown by nearly 1.5 million people while the number of state workers has decreased by 10,000.

The State: Senators propose 5 percent pay hike for state employees

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article54648965.html>

Cassie Cope

S.C. state employees would get a 5 percent cost-of-living pay increase starting July 1 if a proposal unveiled Thursday by Midlands state senators becomes law. However, a S.C. House budget writer immediately poured cold water on the idea, saying only some state workers may deserve a raise.

The State: Do's and don'ts for moped drivers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article54691140.html>

Avery G. Wilks

Braden Poovey sometimes wishes he could pull over moped drivers and tell them everything they're doing wrong. His opportunities rose this week as University of South Carolina students returned from winter break.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Five things to watch as GOP show comes to town

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1603/160119677>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina gets its first big moment in the 2016 political spotlight Thursday night when Fox Business Network comes to town to broadcast the sixth Republican presidential debate of the season. If the trend holds, viewership will run in the millions. An estimated 24 million watched the August gathering on Fox News that featured the first appearance of now-party front-runner Donald Trump.

The State: GOP debate moderator: Trump should trade one-liners for substance

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54644285.html>

Andrew Shain

Fox Business Network anchor Maria Bartiromo says the time of one-liners is over for the 2016 presidential candidates. Voters want more specifics with less than three weeks until the Iowa caucus that kicks off primary season, said Bartiromo, who will moderate a GOP presidential debate Thursday night in North Charleston.

Post and Courier: Jim Clyburn will use Charleston debate weekend to tout International African American Museum

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1603/160119610>

Emma Duman

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn will play the role of Charleston ambassador this weekend as Democratic presidential candidates, national party leaders and members of the Congressional Black Caucus descend on the Holy City for Sunday's debate. It won't be easy to divert attention from 2016 campaign politics, but the third most senior House Democrat still hopes to energize well-connected visitors to the city around a matter of local importance: the International African American Museum.

Post and Courier: New Southern heritage group sends message to GOP by flying Confederate battle flag over Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC16/160119608/new-southern-heritage-group-sends-message-to-gop-by-flying-confederate-battle-flag-over-charleston>

Melissa Boughton

A new group is taking to the skies to show their disapproval of Gov. Nikki Haley's signature on a bill that removed the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds. Save Southern Heritage deployed a plane carrying the flag to fly over Charleston and North Charleston with the message: "No votes for turncoats."

South Carolina News:

The State: The Rev. Jackson pushing voter registration, healthcare in SC

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54658415.html>

Jamie Self

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is touring South Carolina on Thursday to encourage voter registration and highlight the healthcare challenges rural communities face. The Greenville native and civil-rights activist will hold a

news conference at the closed, rural Bamberg County Hospital at 10 a.m.

Bluffton Today: S.C. corrections agency seeks to keep employees

<http://m.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2016-01-14/sc-corrections-agency-seeks-keep-employees#gsc.tab=0>

Sarita Chourey

South Carolina's Department of Corrections is trying to boost its own workforce, while trying to get offenders who are incarcerated ready to earn a paycheck when they're released. Sometimes the solutions are simple. One young man in South Carolina's youthful offender program refused to apply for a job.

Associated Press: \$510M Charleston Harbor Deepening passes another milestone

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OVBscb4S

The \$510 million deepening of the Charleston Harbor shipping channel has reached another milestone. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Wednesday that the project has been approved by the federal Office of Management and Budget. That means it now moves to Congress so lawmakers can approve funding for the federal share of the work.

Post and Courier: Another Jasper meeting, another set of questions

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC16/160119614>

Robert Behre

It's still an open question what will happen on the site of Charleston's Sergeant Jasper, a highly criticized 14-story tower that looms over two of downtown's most historic neighborhoods. Yet another meeting was held Thursday between The Beach Co., the city of Charleston, and neighborhood and preservation groups, but there was no breakthrough on a new plan for redeveloping the site.

Greenville News: Conservationists object to wetlands treatment in plan to relieve U.S. 123 congestion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2016/01/14/conservationists-object-wetlands-treatment-plan-relieve-us-123-congestion/78798034/>

Rudolph Bell

Conservationists are objecting to how wetlands would be handled under the state highway department's plan to relieve traffic congestion along U.S. 123 through Easley. Some officials who have long sought the road improvement worry that the objections from Upstate Forever, a local conservation group, will slow down the process of obtaining a wetlands permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston-area home sales climbed 13.7% in 2015; price and inventory becoming concerns

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC05/160119631>

Warren L. Wise

Home sales in the Charleston region nailed down double-digit growth in 2015 and the trend should continue in the new year, but affordability and availability are growing concerns. Transactions rose 13.7 percent last year, up from 8.8 percent growth in 2014. Final numbers for the year released this week by the Charleston Trident Association of Realtors show 16,202 sales at a median price of \$229,000.

Post and Courier: Limehouse Produce expanding with \$8.3 million of office, warehouse space

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC05/160119623>

David Wren

Limehouse Produce Co. is renovating and expanding its North Charleston business with plans to spend \$8.3 million on warehouse and office space that will create up to 40 jobs over the next five years. The company, established in 1945, provides conventional row crops, local specialties, fresh herbs and dairy products to Charleston area restaurants.

Associated Press: 3 months after historic SC rains, more flooding in Socastee

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=lrJQ8w9c

Residents in Socastee have had enough. Three months after historic rains in South Carolina, some areas in the Horry County community are flooding again. Local media outlets report that recent rains in other parts of the state have caused flooding in the community on the Waccamaw River since last week. Emergency officials say water levels should return to near normal by the weekend.

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