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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, January 14, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Gov. Nikki Haley proposes investing in aging schools' infrastructure

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160113/PC1603/160119664/1177/nikki-haley-proposes-investing-in-aging-schools-x2019-infrastructure>

Cynthia Roldan

Gov. Nikki Haley made education reform a priority for a third year in a row, announcing on Wednesday initiatives that aim at improving education in the state's poor and rural areas. Haley's proposal includes making the Superintendent of Education a Cabinet official to investing in the infrastructure of aging schools and building new ones.

Note: "We are seeing schools that are in horrible condition," Haley said. "We are seeing schools with leaky roofs. We are seeing walls that are molded. We're seeing building structures that are not safe. And so we are saying: it is time to deal with the facilities of schools in our state."

The State: Haley proposes \$200 million-a-year fix for blighted rural schools

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54522940.html>

Jamie Self

Gov. Nikki Haley proposed Wednesday the state borrow up to \$200 million a year to renovate blighted school buildings or build new ones. In making her proposal, Haley said that some S.C. schools are in "horrible condition."

Note: "We're seeing schools with leaky roofs. We're seeing teachers having to wear rain boots to walk through the rain. We're seeing walls that are molded ... building structures that are not safe," Haley said, announcing her education proposals for the 2016 legislative session. "It is time to deal with facilities."

Note: The Lexington Republican is making education a focus of her second term. In 2014, as she was running for a second term, Haley proposed spending more to educate children who live in poverty, on reading programs and on school technology. Those efforts were approved by legislators.

Associated Press: Haley proposes teacher initiatives, borrowing for schools

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q9gU2MZx

Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley's education improvement plans include offering students the chance to graduate from college debt-free and providing up to \$200 million annually for school construction. The Republican governor announced the third year of her education initiatives Wednesday with state Superintendent Molly Spearman at a school in rural Gaston.

Note: Haley said she can't ignore the leaky roofs, moldy walls and other unsafe conditions in schools she visits. Improving education includes improving the buildings where students spend most of their day, she said. "My heart is always in rural areas," said Haley, who grew up in tiny Bamberg. "Morale matters. ... We want them to feel safe and we want them to feel they're worthy."

Associated Press: Gov. Haley, Speaker Ryan offer new GOP answer to Trump

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=N7MdNpPk

Erica Werner

Two fresh faces in the Republican Party - House Speaker Paul Ryan and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley - are offering messages of diversity and openness to immigrants that could answer the GOP establishment's increasingly desperate search for an antidote to the loud pronouncements of presidential front-runner Donald Trump.

Erick Erickson: Nikki Haley for Vice President

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/01/13/vice-president-nikki-haley/>

Erick Erickson

Barack Obama, the man who cancelled the space program and turned NASA into a muslim outreach program, had the audacity to cite the space program as an American success story. The man who called on his supporters to take guns to knife fights regretted that rancor has increased under his administration.

CNN: Nikki Haley's condition: It's my speech

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/13/politics/nikki-haley-sotu-response-speech/>

Dana Bash

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley had one condition when asked to deliver the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address: It's my speech. A Haley adviser involved with preparing the speech told CNN that when the governor accepted the high-profile role, she did so on the condition that the speech would be her own.

Post and Courier: Gov. Haley wins plaudits, and takes punches, for State Of the Union response

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160113/PC1603/160119644>

Emma Dumain

Just hours before Gov. Nikki Haley was set to deliver her nationally televised rebuttal to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he had to hand it to the South Carolina Republican for agreeing to take on the challenge.

Note: As reviews of Haley's performance streamed in late Tuesday and into Wednesday, there seemed to be a growing consensus among many Republicans in Washington that Haley's gambit had paid off amid buzz she could get picked for vice president.

Post and Courier: Haley critics question Emanuel, officer-involved shooting comparisons

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160113/PC1603/160119673>

Christina Elmore

Critics say Gov. Nikki Haley's comparison of the Emanuel AME Church shooting with riots in Ferguson and Baltimore in her State of the Union rebuttal too easily glosses over the back stories of black men killed at the hands of white police officers.

Wall Street Journal: Nikki Haley and Donald Trump Mix It Up Over Immigration

Governor's response to State of Union speech reverberates in Republican presidential campaign

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/nikki-haley-and-donald-trump-mix-it-up-over-immigration-1452720131>

Heather Haddon

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has become the latest proxy in the war between the Republican Party's establishment wing and its presidential front-runner, Donald Trump. The infighting broke out immediately after Mrs. Haley, responding to the President Barack Obama's Tuesday State of the Union address, urged her party and others not to follow "the siren call of the angriest voices."

Note: "We see Republicans who are not always being responsible with their words in terms of extending our tent," said Mrs. Haley, an Indian-American and two-term governor who is considered by some party operatives as a potential vice-presidential choice.

ABC News: Nikki Haley Tells Trump 'You Shouldn't Take These Things Personally'

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/nikki-haley-tells-trump-things-personally/story?id=36274955>

Jordyn Phelps

Gov. Nikki Haley has a message for Donald Trump after making a veiled swipe at him during the response to President Obama's last State of the Union address: "You shouldn't take these things personally." Trump reportedly came out swinging against Haley Wednesday, attacking her on immigration and saying he wasn't worried about alienating her.

Note: "What I say about my other friends who are running for president, they don't throw stones," she said. "So what I would say to Mr. Trump is don't take it personally. This is just something that we learned in South Carolina that I'm passing along. Take it if you want, take it if you don't but I think our country would be better if you take it."

Washington Post: Nikki Haley says Marco Rubio 'believes in amnesty,' then walks it back, complicating his South Carolina campaign

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/01/13/nikki-haley-says-marco-rubio-believes-in-amnesty-then-walks-it-back-complicating-his-south-carolina-campaign/>

Sean Sullivan

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) was trying to make a broad point that didn't really have anything to do with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). And yet, it could come back to haunt the Republican presidential hopeful in a state where he is competing hard to win.

Note: "I'm against his Gang of Eight bill. He is not for amnesty, but I was against his Gang of Eight bill," she said, referencing the bipartisan group Rubio once belonged to that pushed comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina 2016: The Republican spotlight falls on Charleston

<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: Senators could reach roads deal in coming weeks

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54555875.html>

Cassie Cope

The Senate's Thursday session will end early so a group of senators can continue working behind the scenes on a road-repair deal, Senate leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Wednesday. "Hopefully, the Senate will bite," Leatherman said of the compromise that emerges from the working group of eight senators.

WLTX: Senate Could Reach Compromise on Roads Soon

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/01/13/senate-could-reach-compromise-roads-soon/78763710/>

Joyce Koh

A compromise on the state's roads plan could be reached as soon as Thursday among a group of senators. Sen. Raymond Cleary announced Wednesday that an 8-member group of both Democrats and Republicans has been created to deal with their top priority of roads.

Greenville News: Contractors, groups talk to lawmakers about DOT

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/2016/01/13/contractors-groups-talk-lawmakers-dot/78731846/>

Tim Smith

Two brothers from Orangeburg complained of contractors not being paid on time and asked for a corruption probe. Representatives from the Coastal Conservation League and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce each voiced ideas for reform. And a state highway commissioner said he wanted to clear up "misconceptions" about the board's actions concerning the proposed Interstate 73.

Aiken Standard: S.C. Rep. Corley calls for drug testing for food stamp beneficiaries

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160113/AIK0101/160119700/sc-rep-corley-calls-for-drug-testing-for-food-stamp-beneficiaries>

Derrek Asberry

One South Carolina House member wants adult family members receiving food stamps to be drug tested to help eliminate fraud and "wastefulness" within the program. Rep. Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, filed four bills in December 2015 that, if passed, would require more eligibility standards for residents receiving government benefits and limit shopping to more "cost-effective" purchases.

S.C. Political News:

The State: What top GOP hopefuls need to do in Thursday's SC debate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54569160.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

With presidential primaries weeks, not months, away, the time has come for GOP candidates to make their moves to gain momentum just before the first voters begin to cast ballots. A GOP debate Thursday at the North Charleston Coliseum is expected to jump start the final push.

Associated Press: Republican debate sure to highlight party's fractured field
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OYQ91Sse

Julie Pace

A smaller cast of Republican presidential candidates returns to the main debate stage Thursday night, one of the last high-profile opportunities for the White House hopefuls to sway voters before the Feb. 1 Iowa caucus. The prime-time showdown in South Carolina will highlight a race that has cleaved into two distinct - and increasingly heated - contests.

Associated Press: GOP hopefuls gather in S. Carolina for pre-primary debates

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=l0Jlp1tp

Republican presidential hopefuls are gathered in North Charleston to debate before voters in this early primary state go to the polls. On Thursday, GOP candidates are participating in two debates being sponsored by Fox Business Network at the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center.

Associated Press: Santorum in S. Carolina for constitutional discussion

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Tjt9GUJc

Rick Santorum is sitting down with South Carolina's top prosecutor for a conversation on law and the constitution. The former Pennsylvania senator is participating in a forum on Thursday sponsored by the Conservative Leadership Project. The chat with state Attorney General Alan Wilson is being held at The Citadel in Charleston, where two of Santorum's sons are enrolled.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Haley sets right GOP tone

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1002/160119661>

Editorial

The choice of Gov. Nikki Haley to deliver Tuesday night's immediate Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech reflected her rising-star status in the party. And though she rightly criticized the president's misguided approaches on a wide range of issues, she did so in a balanced tone.

Note: As she put it: "While Democrats in Washington bear much responsibility for the problems facing America today, they do not bear it alone."

Index-Journal: Haley a good choice on 2016 GOP ticket

<http://indexjournal.com/opinion/editorial/Haley-a-good-choice-on-2016-GOP-ticket>

Editorial

It should come as no surprise that Gov. Nikki Haley admits she would entertain the prospect of being on the ticket for the GOP frontrunner in November's presidential race. Haley has been in the national spotlight more than once during her tenure as governor.

New York Times: How Donald Trump Redeemed Nikki Haley

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/13/magazine/how-donald-trump-redeemed-nikki-haley.html?_r=0

Anand Giridharadas

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an Indian-American in possession of gubernatorial dreams must be in want of a name like Nikki or Bobby. If I had a name like that, I would not be in Brooklyn writing some online-only essay, wearing a Uniqlo hoodie. I would probably be in Jackson, Montgomery or Raleigh, wearing a red velvet robe, tweaking my State of the State address. And if my name were Nikki or Bobby, the state of the state would be pukka — sorry, strong.

Wall Street Journal: Deport Nikki Haley

She fails the new right litmus test against any immigration.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/deport-nikki-haley-1452729872>

Editorial

When Nikki Haley offered the Republican response to President Obama's final State of the Union, the American people heard an articulate conservative who has twice been elected Governor in South Carolina. It's a sign of the GOP's distemper that some conservatives denounced her because she didn't denounce legal immigration.

Note: The attacks on Ms. Haley show that many on the right these days oppose any immigrants, even those

who arrive legally. They also want to make opposition to immigration a GOP litmus test. A party that rejects Nikki Haley as a spokeswoman is one that doesn't really want to build a governing majority.

The State: Legislature should follow House education task force's road map

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/editorials/article54516155.html>

Editorial

THE TASK FORCE designing a response to the Supreme Court order to provide a decent education to even the poorest children in South Carolina didn't set out to find a silver bullet. As the group explained in its report, released last month, our state and others have believed for too long "that there is a definitive solution to a complex and ongoing problem."

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: Berkeley officials tour BMW as they get ready to host Volvo

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/business/2016/01/13/berkeley-officials-tour-bmw-they-get-ready-host-volvo/78750928/>

Rudolph Bell

Berkeley County officials are wondering what to expect as Volvo gets ready to crank up a major car factory in their Lowcountry home. Spartanburg County officials have been experiencing the effects of a major car factory since the first vehicle came off the line at the BMW plant near Greer more than 20 years ago.

Rock Hill Herald: S.C. certificate of need program could face legislative battle

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article54591640.html>

Don Worthington

When it comes to building a Fort Mill hospital, the competitors – Piedmont Medical Center and Carolinas HealthCare System – agree on two things: South Carolina needs to retain its certificate of need system, which requires state approval to build a new hospital.

Note: Last April, with a resounding 103-1 vote, the S.C. House passed a bill to end the state's certificate of need program by Jan. 1, 2018. Gov. Nikki Haley also has called for an end to the program.

Greenville News: D&W Fine Pack adding 60 jobs in \$20 million investment

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2016/01/13/dw-fine-pack-adding-60-jobs-20-million-investment/78733218/>

Amanda Coyne

D&W Fine Pack is adding 60 jobs to its Fountain Inn plant in a \$20 million investment, according to the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The food packaging manufacturer is expanding its Laurens County facility to accommodate increased customer demand. It will add new equipment and make machinery upgrades.

Local News:

Island Packet: Beaufort County School District looks 'out of the box' to close achievement gap

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article54377920.html#storylink=cpy>

Rebecca Lurye

A four-day school week. Classes extended through June. A semester or year spent entirely on learning to read. Superintendent Jeff Moss has posed those ideas and more as possible solutions to the Beaufort County School District's nagging achievement gap for minority students.

Brian Symmes

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