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Subject: Morning Clips – Friday, January 15, 2016

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Trump, Cruz assert their standing atop Republican field
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MtLBBDGh
Julie Pace, Bill Barrow

With just over two weeks until voting begins, Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz firmly asserted their standing atop the GOP race in a fiery debate, overshadowing a crowded field of rivals still grappling for a way to overtake the front-runners.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a rising GOP star, was widely praised by many party leaders for including a veiled criticism of Trump's angry rhetoric during her response to Obama's State of the Union address - only to be chastised by conservative commentators and others for the exact same comment.

Note: Trump said he wasn't offended by Haley's speech and argued his anger is justified.

Associated Press: Gov. Haley to release her state budget proposal
http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=bPPW7J8p
Seanna Adcox

Gov. Nikki Haley is releasing her fifth spending plan for state taxes in a year when there's more than \$1 billion in additional revenue. The Republican governor will detail her 2016-17 budget proposal Friday at the Statehouse. Chief questions include how her proposal funds roadwork and whether it provides any flood relief beyond what the state is required to send the federal government for assistance amid last October's disaster.

WSPA: Gov Haley Plans to Help Schools in "Horrible Condition"
<http://wspa.com/2016/01/14/gov-haley-plans-to-help-schools-in-horrible-condition/>
Dawn Logg

To help schools in "horrible condition", Gov. Nikki Haley proposed on Wednesday, the state borrow \$200 million a year to renovate under-served schools. Gov. Haley pointed to pictures of schools with leaky roofs and damaged walls as she talked about education being a focus of her second term.

Note: "If we put them in schools they're proud of," she said talking about students, "If we put them in schools that are safe, they'll know that they're worth more."

Note: "We're seeing walls that are molded, building structures that are not safe," Haley said at Frances Mack Intermediate School in Gaston Wednesday.

The State: GOP candidates spar in SC presidential debate
<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article54821895.html>
Andrew Shain

Less than three weeks before voters cast the presidential election's first ballots in the Iowa caucus, Republican candidates took aim at each other during a debate that could start winnowing the large field. Seven Republicans qualified for the main debate stage, the fewest in the first six debates.

Note: Trump was asked how he would unite the Republican Party after S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley criticized him in her response to Democratic President Barack Obama's State of the Union this week. Haley cautioned voters to avoid "the siren call of the angriest voices."

Wall Street Journal: South Carolina Looks to Reclaim Role as GOP Kingmaker
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/south-carolina-looks-to-reclaim-role-as-gop-kingmaker-1452809209>
Beth Reinhard

For decades after South Carolina-raised Republican operative Lee Atwater engineered the state's first-in-the-South primary in 1980, the winner went on to secure the GOP nomination. Then came Newt Gingrich in 2012. A pair of scrappy debate appearances helped the former House Speaker surge ahead of the eventual

nominee, Mitt Romney, breaking the state's winning streak.

Note: And the GOP field is fervidly courting the endorsements of three top Republicans in the state: Mr. Graham, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and Gov. Nikki Haley, a potential vice presidential pick.

Note: A number of Mr. Graham's prominent allies have thrown their support behind Mr. Bush. Mrs. Haley has criticized Mr. Trump's proposal to ban Muslim immigrants from entering the U.S. and chided him as one of the GOP's "angriest voices" in her response to President Obama's State of the Union speech on Tuesday.

Politico: Chris Christie pitches Nikki Haley on an endorsement

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/chris-christie-nikki-haley-endorsement-pitch-217809#ixzz3xJkwwQBR>

Daniel Strauss

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley had a private meeting on Thursday afternoon ahead of the Republican presidential debate in North Charleston, South Carolina and the discussion included two topics: the Republican Governors Association and Christie's pitch for an endorsement.

Note: "They are longtime friends and colleagues, and they take the opportunity to catch up whenever it's possible," Haley's deputy chief of staff, Rob Godfrey, said in an email.

Post and Courier: Barbs fly in GOP debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1603/160119578>

Schuyler Kropf

A raucous showdown of the top GOP hopefuls hit the North Charleston Coliseum, where the much anticipated face-off between front-runner Donald Trump and leading rival Texas Sen. Ted Cruz materialized and included a fight over what New York values mean.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's name also was invoked early as Trump was asked whether her "siren call of the angriest voices" line from her State of the Union response accurately described him and his campaign.

WCSC: Trump on Nikki Haley: 'I think she's a terrific woman, frankly'

<http://www.live5news.com/story/30972813/trump-on-nikki-haley-i-think-shes-a-terrific-woman-frankly>

Amanda Shaw

The first Republican presidential debate of 2016 kicked off in North Charleston on Thursday. GOP hopeful and business mogul Donald Trump was one of ten candidates to participate in the prime-time debate. Trump spoke to FOX Carolina's Sarah Danik at the event about his thoughts on South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who delivered the Republican Address to that Nation after the State of the Union Address on Tuesday.

Note: In the address, Haley said, "During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation. No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country."

Politico: Trump shrugs off criticism from his 'friend' Nikki Haley

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/live-from-charleston/2016/01/donald-trump-nikki-haley-friends-217817#ixzz3xJof3600>

Ben Schreckinger

Donald Trump isn't upset with Nikki Haley for calling him one of the "angriest voices" in politics. In fact, he agrees with Haley, and considers her a friend. In her GOP State of the Union response on Tuesday night, Haley said "Republicans should resist the siren call of the angriest voices." She later confirmed the comment was directed at Trump.

MSNBC: How Nikki Haley evolved into her new role as GOP stateswoman

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/how-nikki-haley-evolved-her-new-role-gop-stateswoman>

Benjy Sarlin

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley grabbed the nation's attention for the second time in a year with her surprising spin on the normally sleepy State of the Union response Tuesday. Her speech, which by her own account was a critique of GOP front-runner Donald Trump's divisive rhetoric and hardline immigration positions, earned adulation from Trump's critics on the right and disdain from his supporters in talk radio circles.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Sen. Lindsey Graham endorsing Jeb Bush for president today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1603/160119579/1180/sen-lindsey-graham-endorsing-jeb-bush-for-president-today>

Schuyler Kropf

South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham will endorse former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for president today, The Post and Courier has learned. Graham, who ended his own White House bid last month, will formalize the announcement at a press conference Friday morning in North Charleston.

Politico: Lindsey Graham to endorse Jeb Bush for president

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/01/lindsey-graham-to-endorse-jeb-bush-for-president-217838#ixzz3xJo2L9sz>

Alex Isenstadt

Senator Lindsey Graham is expected to endorse former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for president this morning, according to two sources familiar with the plans. Graham, a hawkish South Carolina senator and influential foreign policy voice, had been running for president until last month when he dropped out.

McClatchy DC: Cruz and Trump clash over citizenship in GOP debate

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article54822760.html>

Lesley Clark, Steven Thomma

Ted Cruz defended his U.S. citizenship and qualification to be president in a sharply personal Republican debate Thursday, charging that rival Donald Trump and liberal Democrats are raising the question only because they see Cruz as a threat to beat them all for the White House.

USA Today: Six takeaways from the South Carolina Republican debate

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/01/15/six-takeaways-south-carolina-republican-debate/78821410/>

Heidi M. Przybyla

The Republican candidates seemed to be trying to steer much of their fire toward Obama. Cruz began by answering his first question about the economy by chastising Obama for not mentioning the ten captured U. S. soldiers in Iran — who've seen been released — in his State of the Union Address. Christie referred to the address as "story time" and later called Obama a "petulant child" because of his plans to issue executive orders.

Post and Courier: Political supporters descend on the North Charleston Coliseum for GOP debate

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160114/PC1603/160119588>

Deanna Pan, Paul Bowers

Protesters arrived in garish costumes and opposing political camps lobbed taunts outside the North Charleston Coliseum before Thursday night's Republican presidential debate. "Marco! Marco! Marco!" shouted a cluster of Marco Rubio fans as they marched in front of the Coliseum entrance.

Note: Save Southern Heritage, a new Mayesville-based group, deployed the plane to send a message to Gov. Nikki Haley and "the other GOP traitors who turned their back on the average S.C. voter" by removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds, according to a news release.

National Journal: South Carolina Debate Crowns a GOP Final Four

Trump shows he's a front-runner, Rubio and Cruz duke it out, and Christie hangs tough.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/s/306447/south-carolina-debate-crowns-gop-final-four>

Josh Kraushaar

Seventeen Republican presidential candidates began last year with hopes of becoming their party's nominee. Thursday's debate underscored that there are only four candidates left with a credible chance of winning: Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, and Chris Christie.

Fox Business News: How Vital is the South Carolina Primary for GOP Contenders?

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/2016/01/14/how-vital-is-south-carolina-primary-for-gop-contenders.html>

Elizabeth Chmurak

South Carolina holds true to southern hospitality and a rich history in politics. Since 1980, the South Carolina primary has chosen the eventual Republican nominee every year. That all changed in 2012 when former speaker of the house Newt Gingrich won the primary but not the nomination, that went to Mitt Romney.

NBC News: Trump More Than Doubles National Lead in NBC/WSJ Poll

<http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/trump-more-doubles-national-lead-nbc-wsj-poll-n496711>

Mark Murray

Donald Trump has more than doubled his national lead in the Republican presidential race ahead of Thursday night's GOP debate here, according to the results from a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. Trump is the first choice of 33 percent of national Republican primary voters - his highest percentage in the poll.

Associated Press: Cruz chats about the constitution during SC campaign swing

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MMglwL5

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz is talking about legal issues as part of a campaign swing through the Palmetto State. The Texas senator is sitting down with state Attorney General Alan Wilson on Friday for a conversation on the constitution and potential upcoming vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court.

S.C. General Assembly News:

WLTX: No Compromise Yet in Senate Roads Group

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/01/14/no-compromise-yet-senate-roads-group/78814364/>

Joyce Koh

Although Senators were optimistic on reaching a roads bill compromise by the end of the day Thursday, they will still be in talks come next week. The group of 8 Democrats and Republicans met for about two hours on Thursday after the Senate session adjourned, but said they would be coming back on Tuesday to continue their talks.

Greenville News: House passes bill to regulate mopeds

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2016/01/14/house-passes-bill-regulate-mopeds/78784186/>

Tim Smith

For eight years, Kevin Shaw has used a moped to get to his job as a mechanic after losing his driver's license. But if the bill that passed the House Thursday also passes the Senate, Shaw will have to find another way to get to his job on the Anderson and Greenville county line.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: The people bashing Haley just don't get it — they are the minority

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC16/160119618>

Brian Hicks

Republican Party leaders probably watched Thursday night's presidential debate with one thought ringing in their minds like a cowbell: We need more Nikki. While the party descends farther into madness and anger, and populist demagogues continue to reign, it's pretty clear the GOP desperately wants to get that crazy train off the track.

Note: Need proof? Look at the continuing reactions to Gov. Nikki Haley's response to President Obama's State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Note: The party chose Haley for the State of the Union response specifically to counterbalance that sort of lunacy. What they were looking for from Gov. Haley, and largely got it, was a voice of moderation, of common sense.

Post and Courier: Wanted: More debate substance, less show

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160115/PC1002/160119576>

Editorial

Thursday night's main-event Republican presidential debate at the North Charleston Coliseum delivered some substantive discussions on some vital issues. Eventually. Unfortunately, though, relatively trivial matters that can be fairly billed as political show business dominated until the final half of the forum on the Fox Business Network.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Politico: Tim Scott missing debate due to death in family

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/live-from-charleston/2016/01/tim-scott-missing-debate-217798#ixzz3xJjZfSui>

Ben Schreckinger

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott will not attend the debate due to the death of his grandfather on Thursday morning, according to a spokesman. As the junior senator in the third presidential primary state, Scott's endorsement is a coveted prize. Last year, Scott held a series of town halls with Republican candidates across the state.

South Carolina News:

The State: Flood, rains and winter heat puts mold on the rise, Columbia repairmen on the run

<http://www.thestate.com/news/business/article54780085.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

Even South Carolina homes that were not directly affected by the October flood are in danger of long-term, unhealthy and potentially costly damage associated with microscopic mold fungi, say local mold remediation experts, many of whom report high volumes of service calls.

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