

Despite Obstacles, South Carolina Governor Candidate's Star Rises

BY JIM DAVENPORT
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Accusations of infidelity couldn't sink Nikki Haley. An alliance with the state's disgraced governor couldn't do it either. She's an Indian-American in a state not known for embracing women and minority candidates? No problem.

Just months ago, Haley, 38, was an obscure state lawmaker. Now she's the odds-on favorite to become the state's first female governor, helped by an anti-establishment message that has endeared her to conservatives and tea party voters.

Along the way, she has drawn comparisons to her party's most public female personality, 2008 vice presidential candidate and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who endorsed her in May.

"She has what people had hoped Sarah Palin had had," said Kendra Stewart, a College of Charleston political scientist. "I think people felt like Sarah Palin was lacking the substance but Nikki Haley actually has that substance."

Haley almost won last week's primary outright with 49 percent of the vote, but because she didn't get more than half she faces a runoff Tuesday against second place finisher and U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett.

Barrett, who got 22 percent of the vote, isn't going down without a fight. He has questioned Haley's record and run ads emphasizing he is a Christian family man, a clear swipe at Haley, who was raised a Sikh, baptized a Methodist and had marriage ceremonies in both faiths. Her most vocal critic, Lt.



Gov. Andre Bauer, finished last in the four-way primary and has endorsed Barrett.

But conservatives are rallying around Haley, who has called for term limits, smarter spending, and more transparency in how taxpayer money is handled.

Conway Ivy, 68, a retired businessman from Beaufort, said he likes Haley because she stands for "less taxes, less government and more freedom. It's very simple."

Haley is set to appear Friday with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and his wife, Ann, who has battled multiple sclerosis and other health problems and doesn't campaign frequently. On the trip with them: Attorney General Henry McMaster, a former state GOP chairman who had been seen as the man to beat but came in third in the primary.

Haley will also be joined on the campaign trail by Jenny Sanford, ex-wife of Gov. Mark Sanford, who became hugely popular here after her husband disappeared from the state last summer and returned to confess an affair with an Argentine woman.

But Haley has also made enemies, particularly in the state's Republican establishment. She was once a strong ally of Mark Sanford, which made her something of an outcast in the GOP-dominated House. She riled leaders there in 2008 by bucking their resistance to restrictions on payday lending companies and pushing for more recorded votes.

She toured the state with Sanford to highlight that issue, cementing her reputation as a boat-rocker. She also stood with the governor last year as he refused to take federal stimulus money, another stance unpopular with legislators, though she distanced herself from him after he confessed his affair.

Haley is no stranger to difficult races. She was elected in 2004 in a bid prompted by frustration with taxes and regulation that developed while keeping the books for her family's retail clothing business.

"My parents always said, 'Don't complain about it, do something about it,'" Haley said. A lawmaker who was supposed to retire changed his mind and she ended up in a tough runoff, winning even though an opponent sent out fliers that stressed her foreign-sounding maiden name, Randwaha.

More recently, state Sen. Jake Knotts was reprimanded by GOP leaders earlier this month after he called Haley a "raghead," saying: "We've got a raghead in Washington, we don't need a raghead in the Statehouse."

But rather than trying to downplay her background, Haley is touting it as she takes on what she calls the state's "good ol' boy" system. South Carolina ranks 50th in the nation for the percentage of women in the state legislature, and there are none in the Senate, the country's only all-male chamber.

Haley grew up in rural Bamberg County, her mother teaching middle-school social studies and her father — who wears a traditional Sikh head-dress — working as a professor of biology at a local, historically

black college. At 5, Haley recalls being entered with her sister in the Little Miss Bamberg Pageant, which had a separate contest for the county's predominantly black populace. The girls were disqualified because organizers didn't know which pageant they should be in.

"I grew up knowing that we were different," she said. "But it's also the reason why I think that I focused so much on trying to find the similarities with people as opposed to the differences. I think there was a little bit of a survival mode there."

Knotts' ethnic slur wasn't the only ugly turn in Haley's campaign for the GOP nomination. Two men — one a political blogger, the other a lobbyist from a rival political campaign — claim to have had inappropriate physical relationships with her. Neither has offered proof. The married mother of two vehemently denies their claims.

Voter Erin Croft, 35, a small business owner, said her support for Haley is partly a testament to how she has handled the race.

"Dirty politics didn't get the best of her," Croft said. "Honestly, it made me like her more."

If Haley wins the GOP nomination Tuesday in this heavily Republican state, she's likely to beat the Democratic candidate, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, in November.

Beyond that, said Dante Scala, a University of New Hampshire political scientist: "If she wins the nomination; wins the governorship she'll certainly be one to watch for 2016."

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Lawmakers Looking For Oil Spill Answers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Channeling the nation's anger, lawmakers pilloried BP's boss in a withering day of judgment Thursday for the oil company at the center of the Gulf calamity. Unflinching, BP chief executive Tony Hayward said he was out of the loop on decisions at the well and coolly asserted, "I'm not stonewalling."

That infuriated members of Congress even more, Democrats and Republicans alike. Testifying as oil still surged into the Gulf of Mexico and coated ever more coastal land and marshes, Hayward declared "I am so devastated with this accident," "deeply sorry" and "so distraught."

Yet the oil man disclaimed knowledge of any of the myriad problems on and under the Deepwater Horizon rig before the deadly explosion, telling a congressional hearing he had only heard about the well earlier in April, the month of the accident, when the BP drilling team told him it had found oil.

"With respect, sir, we drill hundreds of wells a year around the world," Hayward told Republican Rep. Michael Burgess of Texas.

UN: 400,000 Uprooted By Kyrgyzstan Unrest

OSH, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — An estimated 400,000 people — nearly one-twelfth the population — have fled their homes to escape Kyrgyzstan's ethnic violence, the U.N. said Thursday as throngs of refugees huddled in grim camps along the Uzbekistan border without adequate food or water.

That figure represents half the roughly 800,000 ethnic Uzbeks who lived in Kyrgyzstan's south before Central Asia's worst ethnic violence in decades erupted there last week. More than 200 people — possibly many more — have been killed, and Uzbeks have been all but purged from some parts of the south.

Ethnic Uzbeks on Thursday accused security forces of standing by or even helping ethnic-majority Kyrgyz mobs as they slaughtered people and burned down neighborhoods. Col. Iskander Ikramov, the chief of the Kyrgyz military in the south, rejected allegations of troop involvement in the riots but said the army didn't interfere in the conflict because it was not supposed to play the role of a police force.

The military and police set up roadblocks and began patrols this week after the worst violence was over.

Uzbeks interviewed by Associated Press journalists in Osh, the country's second-largest city, said that on one street alone, ethnic Kyrgyz men sexually assaulted and beat more than 10 Uzbek women and girls, including some pregnant women and children as young as 12.

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Ford Pick-up Stolen In L.A. Recovered After 38 Years

BY SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Harold Voelker tucked away the ownership title and memories of his prized 1956 Ford F-100 pickup after it was stolen in 1972 in Los Angeles.

Both were dusted off when authorities told Voelker they had found the vehicle in Modesto — 38 years after it went missing. "I go to car shows all the time, and I thought, 'I'm going to see it one of these days,'" Voelker, 63, said Thursday. "That was my baby."

Voelker retrieved the car Tuesday after it was discovered last week.

The California Highway Patrol said officials noticed a discrepancy in the vehicle identification number when a Modesto couple tried to register the truck after getting it from a relative in Texas who didn't know it had been stolen.

CHP Officer Greg Bennett found the original identification number and contacted Voelker, questioning him about the truck and where he had lived when it was stolen.

"He kept quizzing and quizzing, and I answered everything," Voelker said. "He said, 'Guess what, I have your truck sitting here.' I said, 'Is this a joke?'"

Bennett said it was an unusual discovery.

"There's definite gratification in getting this guy his truck back, absolutely," he said.

Even so, Bennett called the case bittersweet, because the Modesto couple lost the truck. Voelker said the truck is running well and seems to have more power than he remembered.

There were some changes, however. Voelker said it was pale yellow when it was stolen but is now white. It also has alloy wheels, which Voelker plans to replace with original stainless steel hubcaps.

He also intends to install a theft alarm and park the truck in his garage.

"I'm thinking about getting plates that say, 'Back Home,' or 'It's Back,'" he said.

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CARS	
0p35 '10 Pontiac G6 GT, h. leather, sunroof, chrome wheels, V6, remote start, p. win.-drs-seat, CD, XM, OnStar, 7,968 miles, white	\$22,968
0p37 '10 Pontiac G6, remote start, p. win.-drs-seat, CD, XM, OnStar, 7,968 miles, white	\$16,884
9b54 '09 Chevrolet HHR 2LT, p. win.-drs-seat, CD, chrome wheels, 12,835 miles, silver	\$14,885
9b56 '09 Pontiac G6 GXP, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, remote start, h. leather, chrome wheels, 5,950 miles, gray	\$21,550
9b47 '09 Chevrolet HHR LT, auto, air, cruise, p. drs, remote start, pol. alum. whls, silver	\$13,778
0p47 '09 Chevrolet HHR, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, heated leather, remote start, CD, bright red	\$15,779
0p25 '09 Chevrolet Impala LT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, alum. whls, remote start, heated leather, bright red	\$16,488
0p27 '09 Chevrolet Impala LT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, alum. whls, remote start, heated leather, black	\$15,977
0p30 '09 Pontiac G6, p. win.-drs, remote start, maroon	\$12,977
0p31 '09 Chevrolet Impala, CD, p. seat, alum. whls, white	\$13,959
0p32 '09 Chevrolet Impala, CD, p. seat, alum. whls, silver	\$13,944
9b59 '08 Pontiac G6 GT, p. win.-drs-seat, XM, OnStar, CD, chrome wheels, 27,575 miles, silver	\$12,989
0p22 '08 Pontiac G6 GT, p. win.-drs, heated leather, alum. whls, 24,727 miles, white	\$13,988
9b84 '08 Chevrolet Cobalt LT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, keyless, h. leather, alum. whls, OnStar, bright red	\$12,989
9b83 '08 Chevrolet Cobalt LT, p. win.-drs, keyless, alum. whls, alum. whls, bright red	\$11,975
8n114 '07 Pontiac G6, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, alum. whls, Sedona beige	\$10,988
8n10 '07 Pontiac G6 GT Convertible, p. win.-drs, keyless, AM/FM/CD, p. hardtop conv., 7,000 miles, bright red	\$18,950
0p8a '06 Chevrolet Impala LT, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, CD, fwd, h. leather, gray	\$11,977
9b78 '06 Pontiac G6 GT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, remote start, pol. alum. whls, silver	\$11,988
9b64a '06 Pontiac Vibe, p. win.-drs, keyless, rfd, CD, fwd, lug rack, red	\$10,655
9m14a '05 Pontiac Grand Prix, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, CD, fwd, bronze	\$8,977
8m82 '01 Pontiac Grand Prix GT, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, cass, fwd, h. leather, alum. whls, black	\$10,655
9b77a '01 Pontiac Grand Prix, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, keyless, rfd, CD, leather, alum. whls, black	\$5,889
9k2c2 '01 Pontiac Grand Am, p. win.-drs, keyless, rfd, CD, fwd, alum. whls, blue	\$4,994
9b42b '00 Cadillac DeVille, p. win.-drs-seat, rfd, cass, leather, alum. whls, silver	\$5,449
9b40a '00 Ford Focus SE, 4dr, auto, air, cruise, p. win.-drs, alum. whls, red	\$5,469
8m7c '98 Ford Taurus, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, rfd, cass, fwd, alum. whls, white	\$4,849
9p120a '98 Buick Century, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, cass, fwd, green	\$4,969
7b213b '96 Pontiac Grand Am, auto, air, cruise, tilt, p. doors, AM/FM/CD, alum. whls, purple	\$3,998

CROSSOVERS	
0p18 '10 GMC Acadia AWD SLT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, rear camera, h. leather, p. gate TV/DVD, chrome whls, 13,225 miles, red jewel \$48,800	\$43,779
0p45 '10 GMC Acadia AWD SLT, p. win.-drs-seat-tilt, heated leather, TV/DVD, remote start, navigation, rear camera, 1,775 miles, silver	\$39,969
0p38 '10 GMC Acadia AWD SLT, h. leather, quad seats, remote start, rear camera, p. liftgate, Bose, XM, CD, 11,763 miles, silver	\$36,889
0p1 '10 GMC Acadia, p. win.-drs, 8 passenger, keyless, OnStar, 50 miles, silver	\$29,985
0p28 '10 GMC Terrain AWD SLE2, auto, air, rear camera, TV/DVD, p. win.-drs-seat-liftgate, maroon	\$31,889
0p42 '10 Saturn Outlook AWD, p. win.-drs-seat, TV/DVD, 6,780 miles, brown	\$32,989
0p40 '10 Saturn Outlook AWD, p. win.-drs-seat, dual sunroofs, trailer pkg, rear view camera, 14,908 miles, brown	\$32,837
0p13 '09 GMC Acadia SLT AWD, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, h. leather, rear camera, silver	\$30,994
9b95 '09 Saturn Outlook AWD, p. win.-drs, CD, XM, OnStar, alum. whls, black cherry	\$25,997
0p43 '09 Saturn Vue XR, fwd, p. win.-drs, heated leather seats, CD, XM, OnStar, goldmist	\$18,889

SPORT UTILITIES	
0p3 '09 Chevrolet Suburban LTZ, p. win.-drs-seat, h. leather, XM, CD, OnStar, 16,879 miles, gray	\$34,995
9b100 '09 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, TV/DVD, heated leather, OnStar, XM, 9,525 miles, white	\$39,995
0p16 '09 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, CD, TV/DVD, alum. whls, Bluetooth, 17,331 miles, silver	\$39,888
0p20 '09 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, remote start, h. leather, alum. whls, 13,101 miles, steath gray	\$36,989
9m1 '08 Yukon Hybrid 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, navigation, TV/DVD, heated leather, 20mpg city, 14,136 miles, white	\$38,944
9w2b '04 Toyota 4Runner 4x4, p. win.-drs-sunroof, keyless, rfd, lug rack, cass/CD, alum. whls, silver, sharp!	\$13,977

VANS	
9b107a '05 Chrysler Town & Country, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, slider, keyless, rfd, DVD, fwd, black	\$13,850
9b67a '05 Pontiac Montana, p. win.-drs-seat-slider, AM/FM/CD/MP3, TV/DVD, alum. whls, rear air, silver	\$8,994
9b92a '02 Oldsmobile Silhouette GLS Van, auto, air, cruise, quad leather seats, dual p. sliders, alum. whls, maroon	\$7,889
9b99b '02 Ford Windstar, p. win.-drs-seat-slider, keyless, rfd, cass/CD, fwd, leather, alum. whls, maroon/powder	\$7,967
0p11a '99 Pontiac Montana, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, leather, green/tan	\$5,989
0p9b '92 Chevrolet Lumina Van, auto, air, cruise, p. win.-drs, AM/FM, alum. whls, white	\$2,887

JUST IN	
0p58 '10 GMC Acadia SLT AWD, p. win.-drs-seat, navigation, p. liftgate, heated leather, DVD, rear camera, 2,853 miles, white	\$10,779
0p53 '10 GMC Acadia SLT AWD, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, navigation, p. liftgate, leather, DVD, rear camera, 1,724 miles, silver 9m12 '09 Pontiac G6, p. win.-drs-sunroof, remote start, CD, red	\$8,994
0p46b '09 Pontiac Torrent AWD, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, keyless, rfd, CD, heated leather, 26,743 miles, goldmist	\$7,889
0p49 '09 Chevrolet HHR LS, p. win.-drs, CD, white	\$7,967
0p59 '09 Chevrolet Suburban SLT 4x4 DVD, sunroof, rear camera, remote start, running boards, hitch, 15,520 miles	\$5,989
9p5a '08 Pontiac G6 GT, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, alum. whls	\$5,989
0p17b '07 Pontiac Grand Prix, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, cass, fwd, black	\$5,989
0p50 '07 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, CD, alum. whls, black	\$5,989
0p56 '06 Chevrolet HHR LT, p. win.-drs-seat, CD, alum. whls, blue	\$5,989
0p54 '06 GMC Sierra Crew Cab SLE 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, pol. alum. whls, red	\$5,989
0p39a '04 GMC Yukon Denali AWD, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, keyless, heated leather, pol. alum. whls, low miles, silver	\$5,989
9118b1 '03 Ford F150 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, heated leather, CD, alum. whls, blue	\$5,989
0p17a '03 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, CD, maroon	\$5,989
9b63a '03 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat-sunroof, alum. whls, black/gray	\$5,989
0p57 '02 Ford F150 XLT Ext. Cab 4x4, p. win.-drs, tow pkg, running boards, alum. whls, green/brown	\$5,989
0p5a '02 Pontiac Grand Am, p. win.-drs, keyless, rfd, CD, fwd, white	\$5,989
9p112c '02 Chevrolet Silverado LS 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, CD, alum. whls, blue	\$5,989
9b104c '02 Buick Century, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, fwd, cass/CD, silver	\$5,989
0p55 '00 Chevrolet Silverado 3/4 Ton Ext. Cab LT 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, heated leather, 6.0 V8, hitch, keyless, brown	\$5,989
9b32b '00 Chevrolet Cavalier, 2dr, fwd, rfd, CD, blue	\$5,989
9118b2 '00 Ford Expedition XLT 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, cass, lug rack, alum. whls, silver	\$5,989
0p28a '99 Ford Taurus SE, p. win.-drs-seat, keyless, rfd, cass, fwd, alum. whls, maroon	\$5,989
0p44b '99 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4, p. win.-drs-seat, cass/CD, heated leather, pewter	\$5,989
0p23b '92 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4, auto, alum. whls, white	\$5,989

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