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To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, December 21, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WRDW: Company developing solar power project in Allendale County, S.C.

<http://www.wrdw.com/home/headlines/Company-developing-solar-power-project-in-Allendale-County-SC-363153701.html>

Cypress Creek Renewables announces it has taken its first steps toward investing \$8 million in a solar energy project in Allendale County. The company says the project will create 40-60 jobs during construction and will power approximately 1,600 homes per year.

Note: "Team South Carolina has worked extremely hard to create a business environment that companies from all industries, and from all over the world, can take advantage of and thrive in," Gov. Nikki Haley said, "Cypress Creek's continued investment in our state proves that those efforts have paid off, and we look forward to seeing the impact that the renewable energy industry will have in Allendale, and across the state."

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: Lindsey Graham ends his 2016 presidential campaign

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

Laurie Kellman, Bill Barrow

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base. With just over a month to go until voting begins, the South Carolina senator - the only candidate from one of the four early voting states - posted a video telling supporters "we have run a campaign we can be proud of."

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham ends White House bid

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151221/PC1603/151229910>

Cynthia Roldan, Schuyler Kropf

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham has ended his bid for the White House. South Carolina's senior U.S. senator and defense hawk said he was dropping out of the race for the Republican nomination in a video posted on his website Monday morning.

Greenville News: Graham ends presidential bid

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/21/graham-ends-presidential-bid-cnn-reports/77690586/>

Rudolph Bell

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has dropped out of the presidential race a little more than six months after getting in. Graham made the announcement Monday morning in a video posted on his campaign Web site. It came on the last day for GOP White House hopefuls to remove their name from ballots during South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary on Feb. 20, confirmed Matt Moore, state party chair.

USA Today: Sen. Lindsey Graham drops out of presidential race

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/12/21/graham-abandons-presidential-bid/77690620/>

Mary Troyan

Sen. Lindsey Graham is dropping out of the presidential race, his campaign announced this morning. Graham, a South Carolina Republican serving his third term, addressed his supporters in a video and an email. "While we have run a campaign that has made a real difference, I have concluded this is not my time," Graham said.

New York Times: Timeline on Lindsey Graham's Presidential Campaign

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/12/21/timeline-on-lindsey-grahams-presidential-campaign/>

Alan Rappeport

Senator Lindsey Graham's presidential bid started on a hot June day in his hometown, Central, S.C., but fizzled before the first day of winter, as Republican voters were seemingly swayed more by outsider candidates vowing to shake up Washington than a veteran foreign policy hawk known for working well with Democrats.

McClatchy DC: Is it socially undesirable to back Donald Trump?

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article50909135.html>

David Lightman

So you like Donald Trump? You may be reluctant to tell a live telephone pollster, a new study found. "Social desirability may be a key factor in why Donald Trump performs better in online polls than through live-telephone interviews," according to a study released Monday by Morning Consult, which studies political trends.

Posta and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Christmas week campaigning

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151221/PC1603/151229911>

Gavin Jackson

Only two presidential candidates are scheduled to visit South Carolina this week, ahead of the Christmas holiday on Friday. GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina will spend today, the winter solstice, with the East Cooper Republicans at noon in Mount Pleasant and participate in a town hall with the Georgetown County GOP in Pawley's Island at 5 p.m.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Lucas calls for pension plan reform following new report

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151221/PC1603/151229900>

Gavin Jackson

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas wants comprehensive pension reform to be a priority next year amid a new report highlighting funding and investment shortfalls. The Republican leader from Hartsville told House Republican Caucus members last week that immediate action is needed to fix the \$49.2 billion state pension fund shortfall.

Greenville News: SC Senate majority leader raises I-73 concerns

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/20/sc-senate-majority-leader-raises--73-concerns/77087286/>

Tim Smith

Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney says he doesn't object to a \$1.3 billion plan to build Interstate 73 from I-95 to the beach, a project the state's highway commissioners revived last week. But Peeler said Thursday he does object to funding the project, even if most of the funding comes from federal and local sources, before lawmakers fund improvements to other interstates in South Carolina.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Washington Post: Lindsey Graham is out, others should follow

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2015/12/21/lindsey-graham-is-out-others-should-follow/>

Jennifer Rubin

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), arguably the funniest man in the Senate and the GOP presidential field, exited the race today. He recognized reality, namely that "We've come to a point now where I just don't see how we grow the campaign without getting on the main stage." A number of things may follow from his exit: 8. With fellow South Carolinian Graham out of the race, this also frees up South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R). She may choose to formally endorse or more subtly share her state political operation with one candidate. As a governor, she is most likely to favor either Bush or Christie.

Local News:

Island Packet: Hilton Head Island Mayor David Bennett still adjusting as he finishes his first year in office

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article50692365.html#storylink=cpy>

Zach Murdock

Hilton Head Island Mayor David Bennett didn't turn on the town Christmas tree this year. He wasn't there for the grand opening of the new Best Western hotel in South Forest Beach two weeks ago. And he didn't unveil the new Shelter Cove Towne Centre community park this spring.

Island Packet: Burned body found on Yemassee councilman's property

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article50876750.html>

Caitlin Turner

A burned body burned inside a vehicle Friday morning was discovered on property that belongs to a Yemassee councilman. Investigators from the Yemassee Police Department and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division were called to the scene off U.S. Highway 17 after hunters found the body inside the car around 9:30 a.m.

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