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Subject: Morning Clips – Thursday, November 19, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Republican governors vow to block Syrian refugees

<http://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/national/article45420921.html>

Steve Peoples

Defiant Republican governors on Wednesday demanded the Obama administration suspend plans to resettle thousands of Syrian refugees in their states, charging that screening challenges make it all but impossible to identify terrorists among those seeking refuge in the United States so soon after a series of deadly attacks in Paris.

Note: It's unclear whether the bill is enough to satisfy Republican governors even if it becomes law. "If you really care about those people in Syria, why not take and put the resources in Syria instead of bringing hundreds of thousands of Syrians here?" South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley asked.

Index-Journal: Duncan sponsoring amendment to slow down refugee programs, other officials give their opinions

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/Duncan-sponsoring-amendment-to-slow-down-refugee-programs--other-officials-give-their-opinions>

Colin Riddle

As support for Paris and fear of similar attacks happening on American soil spread throughout the country, GOP lawmakers look for an answer to President Barack Obama's call to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees to the U.S. in 2016. The attacks, appearing to be the work of the Islamic State out of Syria, left 129 people dead and many more injured in Paris last week.

Note: State Sen. Billy O'Dell, R-Abbeville, said he supported Gov. Nikki Haley's decision in refusing Syrian refugees, which she announced Tuesday after previously showing support for refugees, particularly those working with U.S. Armed Forces in the Middle East.

Las Vegas Sun: GOP governors in Las Vegas criticize plan to accept Syrian refugees

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/nov/18/gop-governors-in-las-vegas-criticize-plan-to-accept/>

Kyle Roerink

A panel of Republican governors in Las Vegas criticized President Barack Obama's plan to take in Syrian refugees, saying they didn't know enough about how the federal government vets refugees from the war-torn country.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said there was no intelligence on Syrian refugees, pointing to a report in which White House officials said screening refugees would be challenging.

Note: "The real answer is this: We should be sending in help to Syria," she said. "Let's make sure we are fighting on their soil."

Las Vegas Sun: In Las Vegas visit, GOP governors pass blame to GOP Congress

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/nov/18/in-las-vegas-visit-gop-governors-pass-blame-to-gop/>

Kyle Roerink

The Republican Governors Association arrived in Las Vegas this week to talk about how great the party is doing at the state level. The group, which is holding its annual summit at the Encore Las Vegas, is a political arm of the GOP in state capitals nationwide. The party currently boasts 31 sitting governors nationwide and an uptick in the economy.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said the party promised big things during the 2014 midterm election cycle that saw Republicans take both chambers of Congress. With inauguration day nine months gone, Haley and her colleagues said the dysfunction is on both sides of the aisle. They said there would be action, she said.

Note: "We haven't felt life change," she said. She did say that the party needs to brand itself as a party of

inclusion and cited her work in dealing with a police brutality case that led to a bipartisan body camera law.

WJBF: Aiken Republican Party Urges Council to say 'No' to Syrian Refugees

<http://wjbf.com/2015/11/18/aiken-republican-party-urges-council-to-say-no-to-syrian-refugees/>

Margaret Ann Carter

31 states, with the possibility of more, are saying "no" to Syrian Refugees. South Carolina was the last of the Southern states to ask that no refugees be resettled there. Governor Nikki Haley made the call on Monday, but some think her statement ended with a big question mark.

WYFF: Syrian refugees in NC, GA backed by national group

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/Syrian-refugees-in-NC-GA-backed-by-national-group/36531528>

Corey Davis

Governors across the nation continue the push to block Syrian refugees from coming to the U.S. Concern continues to grow after French prosecutors said one of the terrorists involved in the Paris attacks may have posed as a Syrian refugee to get into France.

Note: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said none of those refugees are Syrian. She said that Syrian refugees aren't welcome in the state, citing gaps in available intelligence for those fleeing Syria.

Island Packet: Sanford supports suspension of federal plan to accept Syrian refugee

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/politics-government/article45383184.html>

Zach Murdock

U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford wants to suspend federal plans to admit Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the wake of the attacks in Paris last week. Sanford's announcement Wednesday comes on the heels of a slew of lawmakers and governors, including South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who have announced they oppose accepting Syrian refugees amid fears that Islamic State terrorists could use the program to sneak into the country.

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S.C. Flood Recovery News:

Associated Press: Officials: Estimated agricultural losses from flood at \$587M

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

South Carolina officials say the state's estimated agricultural losses from last month's floods have doubled. Multiple media outlets report State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers initially estimated losses at \$300 million. However, officials with his agency told the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday that the total agriculture-related losses are now estimated at \$587 million.

Post and Courier: South Carolina farmers hope for a lifeline as flood losses pile up

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC1603/151119254>

Gavin Jackson

State agriculture officials said farmers and the state's largest industry are in crisis following last month's devastating flooding. A \$587 million hit is rippling across South Carolina's agribusiness, with approximately \$376 million in crop losses and \$114 million in lost wages. The forestry sector incurred a \$65 million loss.

Greenville News: South Carolina agriculture losses double from flood

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/11/18/south-carolina-agriculture-losses-double-flood/75981266/>

Tim Smith

South Carolina's estimated agricultural losses from last month's floods have grown to almost \$600 million and farmers statewide are hurting, state officials say. State Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers initially estimated losses at \$300 million but officials with his agency told members of the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday that the total agriculture-related losses are now estimated at \$587 million.

The State: Cost to repair Columbia Canal: \$100 million

<http://www.thestate.com/latest-news/article45411195.html>

Clif LeBlanc

Columbia is facing the prospect of having to dip into its reserves or seek short-term loans to help pay for

\$132.5 million in flood damage, most of it to the Columbia Canal. City manager Teresa Wilson disclosed Wednesday, for the first time, that repairs to the breached and weakened canal are likely to cost \$100 million – most of which city officials expect to be covered by federal money.

The State: State must inspect dams more often, regulator says

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article45348126.html>

Cassie Cope

High-hazard dams that could cost South Carolinians their lives if they break should be inspected every year, the head of the state agency that regulates those dams told legislators Wednesday. "We need to lay eyes on those C1 dams every year," said Catherine Heigel, director of the state Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Island Packet: Golf courses in S.C. still combating effects of flooding

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article45319293.html>

Alan Blondin

More than six weeks since major flooding inundated much of South Carolina, golf courses throughout the state are still overcoming the effects of the copious amounts of water that ran through and/or swamped them.

S.C. Political News:

The State: Poll: After debate, Trump still leads SC GOP primary

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article45397410.html>

Jamie Self

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump remains the top choice for S.C. GOP primary voters and has a wider lead over Ben Carson than recent polls have shown, a new poll found. According to the Benchmark Research poll, Trump leads the state's GOP presidential primary with 25.5 percent support. Carson trails at 17.5 percent.

Post and Courier: Jeb Bush exhorts US to lead fight against Islamic State in Citadel speech

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC1603/151119296>

Schuyler Kropf

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush said the United States should not delay in leading a global coalition to take out IS "with overwhelming force," telling 400 cadets at The Citadel "this is the war of our time." "While air power is essential, it alone cannot bring the results we seek," Bush said Wednesday inside a crowded auditorium less than a week after the deadly IS-led attack on Paris.

Associated Press: Janet Huckabee campaigning for husband in South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=UKZ6F5cx

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's wife is spending some time campaigning in South Carolina this week on behalf of her husband's bid for the GOP presidential nomination. Janet Huckabee is starting off with a meet and greet in Pawleys Island on Thursday. After that, she meets with voters in Charleston before holding a final event in Orangeburg.

Associated Press: Ohio Gov. Kasich brings campaign back to South Carolina

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=OoduE9mi

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is bringing his Republican presidential campaign back to South Carolina this week. The Republican presidential hopeful is holding a town hall meeting on Thursday at The Beacon Drive-In. The Spartanburg landmark restaurant has become a standard stop for candidates seeking the nomination in South Carolina.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: John Kasich in North Charleston today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151119/PC1603/151119229>

Maya T. Prabhu

Republican presidential hopeful John Kasich will hold a town hall in North Charleston today, his second time in the state in 10 days. The Ohio governor will hold the town hall at 4:30 p.m. at Vapor Apparel in North Charleston. He also will hold a town hall in Spartanburg earlier in the day.

S.C. General Assembly News:

WCBD: State lawmakers weigh in on potential Syrian refugees in South Carolina

<http://counton2.com/2015/11/18/state-lawmakers-weigh-in-on-potential-syrian-refugees-in-south-carolina/>

Mayci McLeod

What to do about Syrian refugees, a big question among Palmetto State lawmakers. It is a polarizing issue. While some lawmakers believe accepting Syrian refugees would put the state in danger, others say it's our obligation as Americans.

Aiken Standard: Gas tax controversy brings robocalls directed at Aiken County lawmaker

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151118/AIK0101/151119327/gas-tax-controversy-brings-robocalls-directed-at-aiken-county-lawmaker>

Derrek Asberry

Residents have recently been receiving robocalls urging them to tell their state legislators to vote down legislation that supports a gas tax increase; however, there is no such tax hike on the docket as of yet. Sen. Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, said constituents have called his office as a result.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: Barring Syrian refugees won't stop terrorists

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article45388680.html>

Editorial

Gov. Nikki Haley had all the right instincts in welcoming refugees from around the world to South Carolina in recent months. We hate to see that she has bowed to pressure from state and national legislators and fellow Republican governors to call for barring all refugees from Syria.

Note: "As governor, it is my first and primary duty to ensure the safety of the citizens of South Carolina," Haley said in a letter this week to Secretary of State John Kerry. "While I agree that the United States should try to assist individuals in such dire situations, it is precisely because of the situation in Syria that makes their admission into the United States a potential threat to our national security."

Island Packet: Due processes needed in development cases

<http://www.islandpacket.com/opinion/editorials/article45418554.html>

Editorial

A court ruling in Columbia last week could spell trouble for environmental protection all along the South Carolina coast. A decision by Chief Administrative Law Judge Ralph King Anderson III would enable developers to build a half-mile long, steel sheet pile wall, road, sewer lines and water lines to a spit of shifting sand south of Kiawah Island.

Note: Also, the Coastal Conservation League is circulating online a petition asking Gov. Nikki Haley to permanently protect Captain Sams Spit.

Post and Courier: S.C. farmers rate state help

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151119/PC1002/151119241>

Editorial

Extreme weather is a menace to all - but especially to farmers. And as South Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers told us last week during a visit to this newspaper: "Some years we have freezes, some years we have droughts, some years we have floods. This year, we've had all three."

The State: The link between state revenue projections and politicians' plans is ... missing

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article45372003.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

LAST WEEK, budget prognosticators projected that the state would have what politicians are calling an "extra" \$1.2 billion to spend next year. That prompted Gov. Nikki Haley to declare, despite new and mounting financial obligations, that she will continue insisting on an already-unaffordable \$1.4 billion-per-year income tax cut "until they give me reason to go below that."

Post and Courier: Face up to reality of ISIS' expanding threat

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151119/PC1002/151119240>

Editorial

One illusion is that it will take time before ISIS can mount foreign assaults, during which the organization can be successfully contained and eventually destroyed by the strategy President Barack Obama has been

pursuing - highly limited and selective air strikes and limited support to local forces on the ground opposed to ISIS.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: S.C. grad rate inches up; local districts a mixed bag on assessments

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC16/151119256>

Paul Bowers

With the release of new state report card data, the S.C. Department of Education is trumpeting a small uptick in the statewide four-year graduation rate, from 80.1 percent in 2014 to 80.3 percent in 2015. "We are going to continue boosting academic achievement and encouraging our students to excel," S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a press release.

The State: Ex-Winthrop president admits ethics violation; S.C. officials say board knew of husband's job

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article45320268.html#storylink=cpy>

Anna Douglas

Former Winthrop University President Jamie Comstock Williamson has agreed to pay \$4,000 in fines and fees to the South Carolina Ethics Commission, and she admits she violated the state nepotism law in 2013 in the hiring of her husband to a part-time job at the public college.

Post and Courier: Southeast sex-trafficking ring reached into South Carolina

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC16/151119796>

Dave Munday

The recently busted eight-state sex-trafficking ring reached deep into South Carolina, perhaps even into the Holy City. Women from Mexico and South America were kept at a brothel for a week to service more than 25 men a day, then transported to another one, according to federal investigators with Operation Safe Haven.

Post and Courier: Uber offers flu vaccinations in Charleston for 1 day only

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC05/151119271>

Allison Prang

Charleston is one of 35 U.S. cities where Uber will offer a mobile flu-prevention program for four hours on Thursday. The \$10 UberHealth delivery service includes flu shots and "wellness packs" made up of a tote, tissues, water bottle, hand sanitizer and a lollipop, the ride-hailing app developer said.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Berkeley-Dorchester boundary line resolution could be costly to Dorchester

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151118/PC16/151119253>

Bo Petersen

It will be up to each one of more than 300 property owners to ask to be annexed back into Dorchester County if they want to stay there. Either that or it will be up to the state Legislature to redraw its boundary line with Berkeley County. That's what is expected to come from a state demand to reconcile county lines.

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