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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 22, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCSC: \$500k in flood grants awarded to non-profits

<http://www.live5news.com/story/30802958/500k-in-flood-grants-awarded-to-non-profits>

The first grant recipients of the One SC Flood Relief Fund have been announced. A total of \$500,000 in grants will be distributed to the following South Carolina nonprofits to support their flood recovery projects in a number of hard-hit areas:

Note: "We've asked the people of South Carolina to step up, and what we've seen so far is the best in our state – but there's more work to be done," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "If you were blessed and did not have damage to your home, if you were blessed and able to get back into a safe place, pay it forward. Give whatever you can to support the One SC Flood Relief Fund."

Rock Hill Herald: York County to Syrian refugees: 'Stay away'

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article51022275.html>

Bristow Marchant

York County Council on Monday went on the record opposing the resettlement of Syrian war refugees in the country. By a 4-3 vote, council approved a resolution supporting Gov. Nikki Haley's request that refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war not be relocated to South Carolina because of fears terrorists might slip into the country in their midst.

Note: The resolution calls on Haley to "to continue to oppose resettlement in South Carolina... until such time as proper safety measures have been implemented," and for counties to be allowed "to decide on a case by case basis whether state and local funds may be used to assist refugees."

WBTV: York County passes refugee resolution

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/30805523/york-county-passes-refugee-resolution>

Michael Clark

Council Members passed a resolution asking federal and state leaders not to resettle refugees in York County. The resolution passed after several weeks of debate that escalated after recent terror attacks both overseas and at home.

Note: South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley wrote a letter to the secretary of state in November asking that government not relocate refugees to South Carolina, citing concerns with the vetting process.

Politico: Graham's rivals scramble to scoop up his supporters

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/12/lindsey-grahams-gop-rivals-move-quickly-to-scoop-up-his-supporters-217034#ixzz3v3SGPTKv>

Daniel Strauss

Lindsey Graham's departure from the race set off a scramble among his rivals to try to pick up the support of the South Carolina senator and his backers, a valuable commodity given the state's first-in-the-South primary. In the first few hours after Graham announced that he was bowing out, his one-time challengers quickly heaped praise on him.

Note: Graham, along with Sen. Tim Scott and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, are some of the biggest endorsements a candidate could score in the Republican primary, especially for those banking on doing well in the state.

S.C. Political News:

USA Today: Sen. Lindsey Graham helped shape GOP primary debate

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

Mary Troyan

Sen. Lindsey Graham spent seven months pushing his fellow Republicans toward a more aggressive foreign policy -- but failing to catch on with voters -- before announcing Monday he would end his presidential campaign. Graham, 60, will remain in the Senate, where he has five years left in his third term representing South Carolina.

New York Times: Lindsey Graham Follows the Path of His Old Friends

http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/12/22/lindsey-graham-follows-the-path-of-his-old-friends/?_r=0

Alan Rappeport

Senator John McCain of Arizona, former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, whose hawkish foreign policy positions united them even as they butted heads with their respective parties, have all tried their hands at running for the White House with limited success, returning to toil away in the upper chamber.

Post and Courier: Low polling and shut out of debates, Lindsey Graham ends White House bid

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

Cynthia Roldan, Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham made his political career as a fixture on the Sunday morning news shows. But it was the lack of TV debate time, among other factors, that cost him his White House run, he and his camp said. After a disappointing six-month campaign in which he repeatedly polled at the back of the pack, Graham bowed out Monday, telling supporters by way of a video message that his bid was over.

The State: SC Republican Lindsey Graham drops out of presidential race

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article50880210.html>

Jamie Self

In a video message, Graham recalled saying, early in his campaign, "Any candidate who did not understand that we need more American troops on the ground in Iraq and Syria to defeat ISIL (the Islamic State terrorist organization) is not ready to be commander in chief.

Post and Courier: Carly Fiorina calls for less government, more leadership

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151221/PC1603/151229882>

Prentiss Findlay

Presidential candidate Carly Fiorina lambasted the federal bureaucracy, Obamacare and the response to terror attacks during a speech Monday to Lowcountry Republicans at the outset of a campaign swing through South Carolina. "I think we have reached a pivotal moment."

S.C. General Assembly News:

Associated Press: Lucas: More changes needed to shore up public pensions

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O4SdBswT

Seanna Adcox

Legislators need to make immediate changes to shore up South Carolina's pension system for public workers, House Speaker Jay Lucas said Monday following a report that concluded the last overhaul in 2012 didn't go far enough. The agency's report says the system remains severely underfunded and vulnerable to severe economic downturns, with a \$19 billion debt on promised benefits as of July 2014.

Post and Courier: State's pension fund woes could mean higher taxes, audit report says

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

David Slade, Gavin Jackson

Higher state and local taxes, cuts in public services or a combination could be needed to shore up South Carolina's underfunded pension system for teachers and other public employees, according to a new Legislative Audit Council report.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

USA Today: Farewell, Lindsey Graham: Editorial

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/12/21/lindsey-graham-republican-presidential-race-editorials-debates/77711126/>

Editorial

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina wasn't a top-tier name or someone the nation was clamoring to send to the White House when he jumped into the race for the Republican presidential nomination, but he seemed to have the makings of a contender.

The State: A \$5.3 million shrine to a \$52 nylon flag? Seriously?

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article50909120.html>

Cindi Ross Scope

What comes to mind? Spending \$5.3 million in taxpayer funds to open a whole new wing of an already-underutilized museum? Expanding the museum's footprint by a third in order to enhance the "appropriate display"? Increasing the museum's annual operating costs by a third?

Post and Courier: Graham's parting triumph

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151222/PC1002/151229867>

Editorial

Lindsey Graham officially ended his pursuit of the 2016 Republican presidential nomination on Monday. But it had long been clear that he would not succeed in that mission improbable. Still, lowly poll numbers and relegation to "undercard" debate status can't obscure this lasting triumph for South Carolina's senior senator:

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Third suit claiming improper use of Taser filed against Michael Slager

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151221/PC16/151229887>

Dave Munday

A third lawsuit claiming excessive force has been filed against Michael Slager, the former North Charleston police officer charged with murder after fatally shooting Walter Scott. The latest suit, filed Friday in Charleston County against Slager, the city and police department, alleges that Slager used a Taser without proper cause on a man who was sleeping in a car outside his girlfriend's house.

Greenville News: New motion to dismiss filed by fraternity member in Tucker Hipps lawsuit\

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/21/new-motion-dismiss-filed-fraternity-member-tucker-hipps-lawsuit/77708740/>

Ron Barnett

Attorneys for one of three fraternity members named in the Tucker Hipps lawsuits argue that one of the causes of action – "loss of filial services" – is not legally valid. In a memorandum in support of a motion to dismiss the lawsuits filed by the parents of the Clemson student who died during a fraternity run, attorneys for Samuel Quillen Carney say that claim is not recognized under South Carolina law.

Associated Press: Scott to wrap up 2015 tour of all South Carolina counties

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nKeU8PJV

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott will finish his goal of visiting all 46 counties in South Carolina in 2015 with several days to spare. Scott plans a trip Tuesday to Dillon County to meet people and business leaders at Citizens Bank in Dillon at 10:15 a.m. The Republican will then head down Interstate 95 and meet with workers and tour the Otis Elevator plant in Florence County at 11:30 a.m.

Local News:

Greenville News: Clemson gets state's worst score for LGBT inclusion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/21/scores-lgbt-equality-sc-below-national-average/77708760/>

Angelia Davis

When it comes to LGBT inclusion in law and policy, Columbia is a leader in South Carolina. That's according to the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) fourth annual report assessing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality in cities across the nation, including six in South Carolina.

National News:

Associated Press: Trump calls Clinton a 'liar' over video claim

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/election/Candidate-match/article51015600.html>

Tom Coyne

Donald Trump on Monday accused Hillary Clinton of lying when she said the Islamic State group used videos of his comments about Muslims to recruit militants. The Republican presidential front-runner also took to Twitter to demand an apology from his leading Democratic opponent.

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