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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Tuesday, December 22, 2015

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: House budget chief promises to try to bail out farmers

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151222/PC1603/151229827>

Gavin Jackson

The chairman of the House budget-writing committee said Tuesday he plans to propose aiding the state's farmers who are facing a lean year or even bankruptcy after historic rains and floods in October wiped out their crops.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley rejected calls to ask Congress for direct assistance for the state's farmers, saying it was their responsibility to make sure they were adequately insured. "What the Farm Bureau has asked for is direct cash payments from the federal government to farmers who chose to be under-insured, something that no other industry in the state is asking for or will be receiving," Haley's spokeswoman, Chaney Adams, said earlier this month.

The State: S.C. House budget chief hopes to aid farmers

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article51102130.html>

Cassie Cope

The S.C. House's chief budget writer plans to introduce a bill to aid S.C. farmers, whose crops were washed away during October's historic flooding. The amount of state money that S.C. House Ways and Means chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, will propose to send to farmers is undecided.

Note: Farm groups have urged Gov. Nikki Haley to request assistance for farmers from the state's congressional delegation. But Haley's office has said that request is for direct cash payments to farmers who chose to be underinsured.

Note: Haley has said she will request \$114 million from state lawmakers for flood costs. She also is asking the federal government for \$140 million to repair flood-damaged housing.

Aiken Standard: KronotexUSA to bring 105 new jobs to Barnwell County

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20151222/AIK0101/151229874/kronotexusa-to-bring-105-new-jobs-to-barnwell-county>

Derrek Asberry

More than 100 jobs are expected to land in Barnwell County over the next few years due to a \$230 million investment. KronotexUSA, an American subsidiary of Swiss Krono Group, announced Tuesday the expansion of its existing facility at 810 Technology Drive in Barnwell.

Note: "This \$230 million investment, and the 105 new jobs it will create, is a real reason to celebrate, and we look forward to seeing the impact that this company will continue to have across our state," said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Area Development: The Okonite Company Plans \$19.5 Million Expansion in Orangeburg, South Carolina

<http://www.areadevelopment.com/newsItems/12-22-2015/the-okonite-company-orangeburg-county-south-carolina94354.shtml>

The Okonite Company, a premier manufacturer of high-quality, insulated electric wire and cable, is investing \$19.5 million to expand its existing operations in Orangeburg County, South Carolina.

Note: "Team South Carolina's commitment to workforce training and creating a business-friendly environment continues to result in new companies locating here and our existing companies expanding here. The Okonite Company's \$19.5 million investment shows that our state is open for business, and we look forward to seeing this great company continue to grow and thrive here for many years to come," Governor Nikki Haley said.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Concerns raised over flood food stamp applications

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/22/concerns-raised-over-flood-food-stamp-applications/77700412/>

Tim Smith

According to figures provided to The Greenville News by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Department of Social Services, the state has approved 184,173 applicants for one-time Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in 24 counties, while a total of 96,132 people have registered in those same counties for flood aid from FEMA.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: Bush gets more than 20 Upstate business leaders' endorsements

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/22/bush-gets-more-than-20-upstate-business-leaders-endorsements/77745136/>

Amanda Coyne

More than 20 Upstate businessmen and women endorsed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for the Republican nomination for president, establishing the Business Leaders for Jeb steering committee. The committee will work to raise support for Bush's presidential campaign.

Post and Courier: Lindsey Graham supporters go over to Jeb Bush

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151222/PC1603/151229832>

Schuyler Kropf

A day after he dropped out of the GOP presidential race, 10 former supporters of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham announced they are endorsing former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the S.C. primary. Among those confirming their shift of support Tuesday were former U.S. ambassador to Canada David Wilkins, who had been Graham's S.C. state chairman.

The State: Graham supporters now backing Jeb Bush

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article51062605.html>

Cassie Cope

Ten S.C. supporters of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham now are backing former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, the Bush campaign said Tuesday. Top Graham supporters now backing Bush include former U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Wilkins, University of South Carolina trustee Eddie Floyd and Charleston billionaire Anita Zucker.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Carson's coming to town

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151222/PC1603/151229853>

Gavin Jackson

Dr. Ben Carson swings through parts of eastern South Carolina today, concluding with Christmas caroling at MUSC Children's Hospital. The GOP presidential candidate will campaign in Myrtle Beach, Cherry Grove Beach and the VFW Hall #3433 in Summerville at 4:30 p.m. for a veterans roundtable. He'll then sing Christmas carols with his wife Candy and the Carson Singers from 6-7:30 p.m. in Charleston.

South Carolina News:

The State: S.C. Emergency Management officials monitoring dam near Farrow, N. Brickyard roads

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article51038125.html#storylink=cpy>

Lt. Curtis Wilson, a Richland County Sheriff's Department spokesman, alerted media Tuesday afternoon that South Carolina Emergency Management Department officials are monitoring a dam located near North Brickyard and Farrow roads.

WCBD: SCDC Partners with the U.S. Attorney's Office and ATF for "Real-Time Reentry"

<http://counton2.com/2015/12/22/scdc-partners-with-the-u-s-attorneys-office-and-atf-for-real-time-reentry/>

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) is partnering with the South Carolina United States Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to keep guns out of the hands of former offenders.

The State: SC law enforcement brings lunch to homeless Columbians

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article51112450.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Members of several law enforcement agencies spent lunchtime serving meals to hundreds of homeless Columbians at Christ Central Ministries on North Main Street on Tuesday afternoon. The ministry serves lunch for the homeless every day, according to Executive Director Sylvia Mickens.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Charleston releases report on how to deal with sea level rise

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20151222/PC16/151229808>

Doug Pardue

Charleston finally has a plan to deal with a looming disaster that could see the historic city inundated by rising seas. The Holy City is considered by scientists as one of the most endangered on the East Coast from steadily rising ocean levels, which are expected to increase from 3 to 6 feet by the end of the century.

Greenville News: Pickens County comes through with funding to ease elections budget crunch

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2015/12/22/pickens-county-comes-through-funding-ease-elections-budget-crunch/77746916/>

Ron Barnett

The Pickens County elections office got a bit of good news just in time for Christmas. The budget crisis is over. The county credited the Board of Voter Registration and Elections for the cost of part-time employees who worked the municipal elections in November, according to elections director Rodney Allen.

National News:

Religion News Service: Evangelist Franklin Graham quits the GOP over Planned Parenthood funding

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/nation-world/national/article51073025.html>

David Gibson

Evangelist Franklin Graham has announced he is abandoning the Republican Party in disgust over the move by the GOP-led Congress last week to pass a budget that Graham said was “wasteful” and provided funding for Planned Parenthood, which he compared to the Nazis.

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