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**Subject:** Morning Clips – Monday, December 22, 2014

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## Morning Clips – Monday, December 22, 2014

### Governor Nikki Haley News:

**The State:** The latest on ... S.C. Department of Social Services

[http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3887204\\_the-latest-on-sc-department-of.html?rh=1](http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3887204_the-latest-on-sc-department-of.html?rh=1)

Jamie Self

**The story:** Gov. Nikki Haley recently summed up the last few months at the state's child-protection agency this way: "A lot of chaos." The S.C. Department of Social Services came under intense scrutiny from state senators and auditors after reports that dozens of children had died while under the agency's watch.

**The update:** Social Services acting director Amber Gillum announced a plan to hire more than 200 new child-welfare workers and has been making progress toward that goal. As of Dec. 8, the agency had 111 additional caseworkers and supervisors on board – the result of hiring 250 new workers while losing 139 others.

**Tyre Press:** US state governor calls for Giti Tire tariff revision

<http://www.tyreprs.com/2014/12/us-state-governor-calls-for-giti-tire-tariff-revision/>

In a letter sent 16 December, the Governor of South Carolina requested the US Department of Commerce re-evaluate the 17.69 per cent tariff that applies to all consumer tyres Giti Tire imports into the US from China. Governor Nikki Haley highlighted Giti Tire's plans to build a plant in Chester County, South Carolina, and stated that the tariff "inequitably affects Giti's business."

**Note:** Haley urged the Department of Commerce to "quickly resolve" the matter, however she did not suggest a more suitable tariff rate. "Giti officials said plans to build the Chester County plant show their commitment to manufacturing and distributing American-made tyres," she wrote.

### Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

**Aiken Standard:** Bush speech reinforces state's campaign value

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141222/AIK0201/141229966/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The mere announcement last week by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush that he intends to actively explore a run for president in 2016 set off a flurry of headlines, and the election is a little less than two years away. While diving too deep into the so-called horse race of presidential politics right now is definitely premature, it's important to note Bush's announcement coincided with his address to graduates at the University of South Carolina earlier this month.

**Island Packet:** Allow veterans groups to use national cemetery

[http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/21/1116963\\_tending-the-markers.html?rh=1](http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/21/1116963_tending-the-markers.html?rh=1)

Editorial

The snubbing of members of a local veterans organization must be addressed to avoid a repeat. Members of Chapter 12 of the Disabled American Veterans raised \$10,500 to help expand the Beaufort National Cemetery, one of the first national cemeteries established in 1863.

**The State:** Tech revolution must include African-Americans

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3883820/cobb-hunter-tech-revolution-must.html>

Gilda Cobb-Hunter

Fifty years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the end of Jim Crow, African-Americans still have far to go to reach the promised land of which Dr. Martin Luther King spoke. Poverty, the school-to-prison pipeline and barriers to voting make it easy for the challenges to seem overwhelming.

**Post and Courier:** CRDA gets its money, mostly

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141222/PC1002/141229899>

Editorial

After nearly losing local government support in October, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance appears to be back on track with its primary public backers: Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. While there are governance and policy issues to be worked out, the CRDA has gained the confidence of county councils representing those jurisdictions.

### **S.C. General Assembly News:**

**Index-Journal:** State senators weigh in on batterers' gun rights

<http://www.indexjournal.com/news/State-senators-weigh-in-on-batterers--gun-rights>

Colin Riddle

New legislation was pre-filed in the South Carolina Senate earlier this month for the 2015 agenda, which calls for domestic violence reform with a new tiered system of penalties and the barring of criminal domestic violence offenders from possessing firearms. Nicholson said the issue is clearly present today with many local and national incidents being reported every day.

**Associated Press:** Ex-Speaker Harrell says he might return to politics

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kLTqUN7d](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=kLTqUN7d)

Former House Speaker Bobby Harrell hasn't decided if he's done with politics for good, according to an interview the Charleston Republican gave a local paper. "If I had to make the decision right now, the answer is 'no,'" Harrell told the Post and Courier of Charleston (<http://bit.ly/13pdb2W>) of running for office once he's served his sentence. "But you never know what the future holds."

### **S.C. Federal Delegation News:**

**Post and Courier:** Senator Lindsey Graham vows to hinder changes in Cuba policy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141221/PC16/141229869>

Jeremy Borden

Congress plans to find ways to thwart the dramatic change in policy with Cuba that President Barack Obama announced last week, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said on a Sunday morning talk show. The South Carolina Republican told CBS's "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer that Obama's announcement that he would normalize diplomatic relations with the island nation was a reward for leaders of a "backwater dictatorship."

### **South Carolina News:**

**Rock Hill Herald:** Bidding on Giti Tire site reopened

[http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/21/6645048\\_bidding-on-giti-tire-reopened.html?rh=1](http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/21/6645048_bidding-on-giti-tire-reopened.html?rh=1)

Bristow Marchant

A judge has refused to block Chester County's bidding process for construction of the new Giti Tire plant, opening the way for bids to be processed this week. Circuit Judge Lee Alford declined to renew a temporary restraining order against the county on Friday, something that could lead to five pre-qualified bids for the multimillion dollar project being unsealed before the new year unless a higher court intervenes.

**Post and Courier:** Boeing, labor union battle for worker loyalty heating up

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141221/PC05/141229989>

David Wren

Here are two groups that won't be exchanging holiday niceties this year: Boeing Co. and the International Association of Machinists union. The company that makes 787 Dreamliner commercial planes at its North Charleston plant and the union that wants to organize part of its local employees are in an all-out, end-of-the-year war for workers' hearts and minds.

**Post and Courier:** Medicare launches controversial pilot program in South Carolina to save money on ambulance transports

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141221/PC16/141229871>

Lauren Sausser

Hundreds of diabetic patients across the state who rely on dialysis treatment for survival may be left at home this week if Medicare doesn't make quick fixes to a new pilot program it recently rolled out in South Carolina.

That program, which also launched this month in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, now requires private ambulance companies to seek prior permission before transporting Medicare patients for nonemergency, routine care.

**Post and Courier:** President's budget grounds eight C-17s at Joint Base Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141221/PC05/141229879>

John McDermott

One of the four C-17 flying units assigned to Joint Base Charleston is being grounded, along with another in Washington state, the Air Force announced. The decision was based on the President Barack Obama's defense budget for fiscal year 2015, according to a statement from the Air Mobility Command.

**The State:** Beaufort County judge's decision to toss out conviction of executed teen gains national attention

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3887199/beaufort-county-judges-decision.html#storylink=cpy>

Rebecca Lurye

Fourteenth Circuit Judge Carmen Mullen could have waved off George Stinney's case when it landed on her docket in January, citing the passage of 70 years since the 14-year-old's conviction and execution in Clarendon County. Many judges would have chosen not hear the sensitive and difficult case of a black boy put to death in the killings of two young girls in a small, segregated mill town, friends and colleagues said this week.

**The State:** House fires in SC claim lives of 12 in recent days; officials caution vigilance

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3887669/house-fires-in-sc-claim-lives.html#storylink=cpy>

The deaths of 12 people from devastating house fires in the Upstate and the Midlands in the space of a week and similar fires across the country have caused fire experts to caution residents to be more vigilant during the winter months when home fires are more likely to occur.

#### Local News:

**The State:** Many may seek to succeed Metts as Lexington County sheriff

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/21/3887119/many-may-seek-to-succeed-metts.html>

Tim Flach

Lexington County voters will choose their first new sheriff in two generations next spring, in a race lacking the familiar name of James Metts. As many as a dozen candidates – most of them better known in law enforcement circles than publicly – could emerge by the Jan. 12 deadline to enter the contest.

**Island Packet:** District considers changing school calendar to improve opportunities for students

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/21/3500447/district-considers-changing-school.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Sarah Bowman

Starting next school year, students and teachers might be out for the summer in May -- but at the expense of losing several days off in the fall. Changes under consideration for the next school year could ripple across the Beaufort County School District -- and pros and cons to each have become apparent, district head of instruction Dereck Rhoads said.

**Times and Democrat:** Lawsuit: Inmate allowed to die despite troubling signs

[http://thetandd.com/news/lawsuit-inmate-allowed-to-die-despite-troubling-signs/article\\_aa1f540c-8998-11e4-812d-b38dd8289c2f.html](http://thetandd.com/news/lawsuit-inmate-allowed-to-die-despite-troubling-signs/article_aa1f540c-8998-11e4-812d-b38dd8289c2f.html)

Martha Rose Brown

Attorneys allege the Orangeburg County Detention Center, the Regional Medical Center and a list of medical care providers were negligent when James Ray Parker died in the jail. Parker died on Feb. 6, 2013. An autopsy determined the 38-year-old Neeses resident died of natural cardiac problems.

#### National News:

**Associated Press:** Abused kids die as officials fail to protect

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=314JRgBe](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=314JRgBe)

Holbrook Mohr, Garance Burke

At least 786 children died of abuse or neglect in the U.S. in a six-year span in plain view of child protection authorities - many of them beaten, starved or left alone to drown while agencies had good reason to know

they were in danger, The Associated Press has found.

**Associated Press:** yates tapped for Deputy AG

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_OBAMA\\_DEPUTY\\_ATTORNEY\\_GENERAL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-21-17-40-16](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_DEPUTY_ATTORNEY_GENERAL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-21-17-40-16)

Erica Tucker

President Barack Obama is preparing to nominate the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta to the No. 2 position at the Justice Department, according to two people familiar with the move. They said Sally Quillian Yates is Obama's pick for deputy attorney general. If confirmed by the Senate, she'll oversee day-to-day operations.

**CNN:** Obama to do 'everything I can' to close Gitmo

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/21/politics/obama-to-do-everything-i-can-to-close-gitmo/index.html?hpt=po\\_c1](http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/21/politics/obama-to-do-everything-i-can-to-close-gitmo/index.html?hpt=po_c1)

Eric Bradner

President Barack Obama says he plans to push to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility during his final two years in office -- potentially fulfilling a major campaign promise that he hasn't yet accomplished.

"I'm going to be doing everything I can to close it," Obama said in an interview with CNN's Candy Crowley that aired Sunday on "State of the Union."

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