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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 30, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Rock Hill Herald: Commerce Dept. lowers Giti Tire's preliminary tariffs

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/29/6659227_commerce-dept-lowers-giti-tires.html?rh=1

Don Worthington

The U.S. Department of Commerce has adjusted preliminary tariffs placed on the tires manufactured in China, after concerns raised by Giti Tire and others. The commerce department lowered Giti's rate to 11.74 percent from 17.69 percent. The rate for most other Chinese-manufactured tires dropped to 12.03 percent from 15.69 percent.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley was among those who wrote the commerce department, asking that Giti's rate be revised. A spokeswoman for the governor said Haley was simply looking out for a company that has made a major commitment to the state.

Post and Courier: Berkeley County Sheriff DeWitt remains on job; authorities think DUI arrest will stand

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC16/141229445>

Andrew Knapp

A 175-year-old state law with Medieval roots should not foil the weekend arrest of Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt just because a coroner didn't serve him with court paperwork, the area's top prosecutor and the magistrate who raised the issue said Monday.

Note: Their comments came as DeWitt remained silent about his future in the post he has held for 20 years and as Gov. Nikki Haley said she would act to suspend him only if he's indicted by a grand jury.

Note: Chaney Adams, a spokeswoman for Haley, said the governor would wait to see if a grand jury hands down an indictment.

Note: "The governor will handle this issue as she has every time she has suspended a sheriff since she took office - by following the law," Adams said. "If Sheriff DeWitt is indicted for a crime of moral turpitude, then he will be suspended from office and the governor will appoint a replacement."

Aiken Standard: Local legislators: Reforms tied to keeping economy steady

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141229/AIK0101/141229467/1004/local-legislators-reforms-tied-to-keeping-economy-steady>

The linchpins for economic success in South Carolina are wide ranging, but members of the Aiken County legislative delegation pointed to several policy areas they believe can help spur development in the Palmetto State. Economists in the state have indicated South Carolina's economy experienced steady and stable growth in 2014, and according to a study recently released by the University of South Carolina, the same is expected in 2015.

Note: S.C. Rep. Don Wells, R-Aiken, said that though the state has done well with business growth in recent years, policy makers must look at "eliminating over-burdensome regulations on businesses" to ensure the state has economic success.

Note: He also praised South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and said through her administration, the state has "made great strides" in making South Carolina more attractive to business and industry.

Rock Hill Herald: Chester Co. election date set

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/29/6659110_chester-co-election-date-set.html?rh=1

Bristow Marchant

Voters in Chester County now know when they will head back to the polls for a re-vote in the county supervisor's race. An order from Gov. Nikki Haley sets March 3 as the date for voters to choose once again between longtime incumbent Carlisle Roddey and petition candidate Shane Stuart.

The State: Former SC Gov. Edwards remembered for humanity, humor

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/29/3898702/former-sc-gov-edwards-remembered.html>

Cassie Cope

Former Gov. James Edwards, the first Republican elected governor of South Carolina since Reconstruction, was remembered Monday for his humanity and humor. But even after leaving office, Edwards remained a who's who as evidenced by the number of S.C. politicians who attended Monday's service, including Gov. Nikki Haley

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: DeWitt should step aside pending trial

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141230/PC1002/141239985>

Editorial

What can you say when a sheriff refuses a Breathalyzer test during his department's "Sober or Slammer" campaign against drunken driving? The thought that immediately comes to mind is that Berkeley Sheriff Wayne DeWitt should no longer be serving as the county's chief law enforcement officer.

Aiken Standard: Clearer laws may save state embarrassment

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141230/AIK0201/141239999/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The arrest of a sheriff on DUI charges in South Carolina looks bad enough. But what's worse is the glaring light it sheds on a deeply misguided provision in state law. H. Wayne DeWitt, sheriff of Berkeley County, was arrested on Sunday night for allegedly plowing into another car while driving a county-owned pickup under the influence and leaving the scene.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): How Edwards advanced MUSC on transplants

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141230/PC1002/141239986>

Dr. Robert K. Stuart

Since the Dec. 27 Post and Courier article, "Edwards was a pioneer dedicated to his state," much has been reported about important MUSC "firsts" that occurred during the presidency of Dr. James B. Edwards. However, the story of MUSC's first bone marrow transplant is not well known, especially how Dr. Edwards played a decisive personal role that has never been acknowledged before.

Post and Courier: Heed lessons of AirAsia tragedy

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141230/PC1002/141239983>

Editorial

The tragic disappearance of AirAsia Indonesia Flight 8501 raises concern once again over the lack of adequate tracking technology for passenger aircraft operating over oceans. The Airbus 320-200 was en route from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore with 162 people on board when it went down while flying over the Java Sea and Karimata Strait.

The State: Midlands local government watchdogs' role rolls into 2015

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/29/3898796/bolton-midlands-local-government.html>

Warren Bolton

IN JANUARY, I wrote a column in which I declared that the watchword for the year in the Midlands should be "watchdog" and encouraged us all to get engaged in our local governments and pay close attention to what our elected officials were up to.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Florence Morning News: Two candidates file for House 63 race

http://www.snow.com/news/article_1dcc21c0-8fc3-11e4-bbd5-5b4325909194.html

Gavin Jackson

Two Republicans filed for the S.C. House District 63 seat on Monday, the first day candidates could do so, running to fill the seat Kris Crawford resigned from a little more than a month after winning a fifth term. Florence property manager Elijah Jones was the first to turn in paperwork and became the third Republican to show interest in the race.

South Carolina News:

Aiken Standard: NRC wants land purchased for Yucca

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141230/AIK0101/141239995/1004/nrc-wants-land-purchased-for-yucca>

Derrek Asberry

The latest volume of a Yucca Mountain report states that the U.S. Department of Energy has not yet purchased the property where the repository could potentially sit, while DOE officials maintain that Yucca is not a “workable solution.”

The State: Metts scheduled to plead guilty in federal court for second time

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/29/3898914/metts-scheduled-to-plead-guilty.html>

John Monk

For the second time in two weeks, former Lexington County Sheriff Jimmy Metts will try to enter a guilty plea in U.S. federal court Tuesday morning. His first attempt to plead guilty, on Dec. 17, was rejected by U.S. Judge Terry Wooten, who said a proposed plea agreement prohibited giving Metts any prison time for the felony to which the ex-sheriff wanted to plead guilty.

Associated Press: Former sheriff Metts makes second attempt at plea

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

South Carolina's longest-serving sheriff is facing a hearing with the hope that a second attempt at a deal brings an end to his federal bribery conspiracy case. James Metts was sheriff of Lexington County for 42 years before his indictment in June on 10 charges.

Island Packet: Traffic fatalities bounced back up in Beaufort County, the state in 2014

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/29/3510816/traffic-fatalities-bounced-back.html?sp=/99/257/266/#storylink=cpy>

Sarah Bowman

Beaufort County traffic fatalities nearly doubled in 2014, while the rest of South Carolina also saw those deadly numbers rise. According to preliminary numbers released Monday by the state's Department of Public Safety, 23 people died on the road in Beaufort County in 2014, compared to 13 deaths in 2013.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville Police drop charges against autistic man

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/29/greenville-police-drop-charges-autistic-man/21012489/>

Lyn Riddle

The Greenville Police Department said it will work to drop charges against an autistic African-American man they tased and arrested on Christmas Eve, saying he wasn't competent to understand their commands to stop as they were investigating a report of gunshots.

Sun News: Real estate leaders see continued growth in Myrtle Beach-area home sales

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/29/4695749_real-estate-leaders-see-continued.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1#storylink=cpy

Steve Jones

A couple of Grand Strand real estate leaders see nothing on the horizon to keep the single-family home market from the march that began in the fall of 2013. Laura Crowther, the association's CEO, said she expects the same, slow and steady growth, with the seasonal ups and downs common to the market.

Post and Courier: Work on Courier Square in Charleston likely to start in spring

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC05/141229837>

Warren L. Wise

Development is expected to start this spring on the first phase of Courier Square, a mixed-use project with 226 apartments, retail and office space and a parking garage at Meeting and Columbus streets, according to Todd Wigfield, managing director of development for the Southeast for Greystar.

National News:

New York Times: U.S. Said to Investigate Sheldon Silver, New York Assembly Speaker, Over Payments

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/30/nyregion/us-said-to-investigate-new-york-assembly-speaker-over-pay>

[from-law-firm.html?emc=edit_na_20141229&nid=68689306&_r=1](#)

William K. Rashbaum

Federal authorities are investigating substantial payments made to the State Assembly speaker, Sheldon Silver, by a small law firm that seeks real estate tax reductions for commercial and residential properties in New York City, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

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