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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Monday, December 29, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt charged with DUI, leaving scene of wreck
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC16/141229491>

Andy Paras, Melissa Boughton

Berkeley County Sheriff H. Wayne DeWitt was granted a personal recognizance bond Sunday night at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center after allegedly plowing into another vehicle while driving drunk in a county-owned pickup and then leaving the scene.

Note: A Change.org petition had already been created by mid-Sunday asking Gov. Nikki Haley to remove DeWitt from office. It had 230 of 8,629 needed signatures by 9:30 p.m.

Note: If DeWitt were indicted as a result of the DUI crash, Haley could suspend him from office until acquitted or until the case was otherwise disposed of, according to state law. She could also appoint a "suitable person" to hold office during that time.

The State: Controversial Amazon SC tax break set to expire in 2016

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/28/3897259_controversial-amazon-sc-tax-break.html?rh=1

Cassie Cope

The clock is ticking on a key incentive that helped bring Amazon to Lexington County. On Jan. 1, 2016, Amazon must start collecting sales taxes on purchases made in South Carolina unless the General Assembly extends an exemption granted to the Internet giant when it located a distribution center in Lexington in 2011.

Note: Then-new Gov. Nikki Haley, a Lexington Republican, opposed the tax break, infuriating Lexington County Republicans and others who were anxious to land more than 1,000 new jobs in the wake of the Great Recession.

Aiken Standard: Medicaid expansion remains divisive despite state's rejection

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141229/AIK0101/141229536/1004/medicaid-expansion-remains-divisive-despite-state-s-rejection>

Maayan Schechter, Michael Ulmer

The potential expansion of Medicaid by the state legislature and governor isn't likely to seep back into South Carolina in the near future, but that hasn't deterred critics from making a case for its potential benefits.

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Financial Express: India rated amongst top seven source markets for South Carolina

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/travel/latest-updates-travel/india-rated-amongst-top-seven-source-markets-for-south-carolina/24209/>

Archana Sharma

Taking the initiative of boosting tourism between India and South Carolina, Nikki Haley, governor, State of South Carolina, USA, recently visited the country for a 10 day tour. According to Haley, "South Carolina offers the perfect mix of business and tourism as it is the friendliest state and topmost vacation spot in the USA.

Note: "Tourism is generating nearly US\$18 billion a year in economic impact and representing more than 10 per cent of the South Carolina's total employment." said Haley.

The State: MORNING BUZZ: Former Gov. James Edwards burial to be held today

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/29/3897508/morning-buzz.html>

Andrew Shain

Funeral services and burial for former Gov. James Edwards, who died Friday at age 87, will be held today in the Charleston area. A service for South Carolina's first Republican governor elected since Reconstruction will be at 1 p.m. in St. Philip's Church in Charleston. Burial will follow at Christ Church Cemetery in Mount Pleasant.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley, who asked flags flown at half-staff today in Edwards' honor, plans to attend the funeral services.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Post and Courier: Let Keystone XL move forward

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC1002/141229524>

Editorial

In his latest remarks on the Keystone XL pipeline President Obama repeated the dubious claim that the Canadian oil it will carry will be mostly shipped abroad with only "nominal" benefit for American consumers. Indeed, that assertion already has earned him a "Three Pinocchios" (mostly untrue) rating by The Washington Post.

Aiken Standard: Questions linger over education standards

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141229/AIK0201/141229551/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The conundrum over Common Core education standards isn't likely to go away anytime soon. South Carolina policy makers pushed to revise the rather controversial standards earlier this year, a shift prompted by state lawmakers, but the reworking now has its own critics.

Post and Courier (Guest Column): S.C. State rates a fair opportunity to move forward

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC1002/141229521>

Jim Felder

In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its infamous decision Plessey v. Ferguson, which confirmed Jim Crow laws and the black codes that said blacks were not equal to whites and could be treated differently.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Jim Edwards helped fuel the rise of MUSC

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC16/141229502>

Robert Behre

The Medical University of South Carolina wasn't necessarily a sick institution when former Gov. James Edwards became its new president in 1983, but his 17-year tenure there showed the school just how healthy it could be.

Rock Hill Herald: Giti Tires, Rock Hill Galleria highlight economic development successes in 2014

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/29/6657276_giti-tires-rock-hill-galleria.html?rh=1

Don Worthington

Depending on your favorite sport, June 16 was either the hat-trick, the trifecta, or more simply, the single biggest economic development day in South Carolina history. That's when three companies announced they would invest roughly \$800 million and bring 7,100 jobs to York and Chester counties.

The State: Berkeley County sheriff charged for DUI, leaving scene of a wreck

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/28/3896728/berekely-county-sheriff-arrested.html>

Harrison Cahill

Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt was taken into custody early Sunday morning by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and charged with driving under the influence and leaving the scene of a wreck. Beres said when the trooper arrived at the scene, she was informed by Hanahan police officers they had caught the hit-and-run suspect near Bankton Circle in the city of Hanahan.

Associated Press: Patrol: Berkeley County sheriff charged with DUI

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2YTJ7vnY

The South Carolina Highway Patrol says that the Berkeley County Sheriff has been charged with DUI after an early-morning wreck. Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres says Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt was

charged with DUI and leaving the scene of a collision involving injuries.

The State: Epilogue – Emma’s Law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/28/3897567/epilogue-emmas-law.html>

Tim Flach

The story: Emma’s Law is the first significant crackdown on drunken driving recently in South Carolina. Its key provision requires that an interlock device be hooked up to a car’s ignition for all first-time drunken drivers who plead guilty or are convicted with a blood-alcohol content of 0.15 or higher.

The update: It’s too new to have impact yet, said Laura Hudson, a victims’ rights advocate. Obtaining a conviction for DUI is tied up in legal disputes over use of police videos of traffic stops as evidence, she said.

Associated Press: Ex-Sheriff Metts taking 2nd shot at bribery plea deal

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nNeRRfU6

Meg Kinnard

After a judge rejected a no-jail-time plea agreement, South Carolina's longest-serving sheriff is hoping that a second attempt at a deal marks an end to his federal bribery conspiracy case. James Metts served Lexington County for 42 years before his indictment this summer on 10 charges. Federal prosecutors said that the longtime lawman took bribes from a restaurant owner in exchange for releasing some of his employees who had been detained for being in the country illegally.

Greenville News: Sexual abuse victims find healing in GRACE report

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/27/sexual-abuse-victims-find-healing-grace-report/20938675/>

Lyn Riddle

Cathy Harris quickly read through the report criticizing Bob Jones University leaders for the way they handled reports of sexual assault and abuse. Now she's making her way through it again, deliberately this time, trying to sort it all out, letting herself feel all the emotions she tries hard to hold back.

The State: Fund keeps power on after job loss

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/28/3897288/fund-keeps-power-on-after-job.html>

Aaron Ransdell

For many struggling with job losses or other financial strains during the winter, reaching out for help can relieve some of those stresses. The Salvation Army is continuing to help the community with donations made to the Woodyard Fund.

Post and Courier: Palmetto Poison Center finds new funding, after years of budget cuts

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC16/141229620>

Lauren Sausser

A recent \$450,000 investment by the South Carolina Medicaid agency to the Palmetto Poison Center ensures that the free hotline will continue taking thousands of calls coming in from every corner of the state, 365 days a year. The center, housed for decades at the South Carolina College of Pharmacy in Columbia, nearly scaled back its hours earlier this year because of budget cuts.

Local News:

Island Packet: Flu season revs up in Beaufort County

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/28/3509395_flu-season-revs-up-in-beaufort.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Dan Burley

Runny noses, coughs, fever, aches and the flu. That's what Beaufort County doctors are seeing in offices and emergency rooms as flu season ramps up. And this season seems particularly bad. About four times as many county cases have been reported this year compared to last year, according to S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control statistics released last week.

Post and Courier: \$80 million Charleston Midtown project eyes April opening

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141228/PC05/141229621>

Warren L. Wise

A year ago, the constant ping-pong of pile driving resonated throughout the upper peninsula of Charleston as construction began on the \$80 million Midtown hotel, retail and office complex. Twelve months later, the nine-story structure, which includes two hotels; an eight-level, 405-space parking deck; and buildings for

shops, restaurants and offices is being bricked in.

National News:

Associated Press: EPA sets first national standard for coal ash waste

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2014/12/28/epa-sets-first-national-standard-coal-ash-waste/20969201/>

Dina Cappiello

The Obama administration has set the first national standards for waste generated from coal burned for electricity, treating it more like household garbage than a hazardous material. Environmentalists had pushed for the hazardous classification, citing the hundreds of cases nationwide in which coal ash waste had tainted waterways or underground aquifers.

Associated Press: Obama warns GOP he plans to use veto pen in 2015

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_CONGRESS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-29-05-11-08

Josh Lederman

Warning from President Barack Obama to congressional Republicans: I have a veto pen and, come January, I won't be afraid to use it. Since taking office in 2009, Obama has only vetoed legislation twice, both in fairly minor circumstances.

Associated Press: Obama says despite protests, race relations better

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_OBAMA_RACE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-12-29-05-18-56

President Barack Obama says the U.S. is less racially divided than it was when he took office, despite recent protests over police treatment of black people. Obama says mistrust between police and minorities isn't new. He says it's being talked about more because the proliferation of smartphones allows more interactions to be recorded.

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