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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Monday, December 29, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WCIV: State dignitaries gather for funeral service of former Gov. Jim Edwards

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/27710494/former-sc-gov-edwards-dies>

In downtown Charleston Monday afternoon, dignitaries and state leaders gathered at St. Philip's Church to pay their respects to the man many credit with kickstarting the GOP and the Medical University. Sen. Tim Scott, Rep. Mark Sanford and his ex-wife Jenny, and current Gov. Nikki Haley are among the many in attendance for the funeral services of former Gov. Jim Edwards.

Note: "As someone who appreciated the opportunities and challenges of this office, Governor Edwards always offered kind words of support and encouragement - and we are forever grateful for his friendship," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Michael and I are deeply saddened by the passing of Governor Edwards, whose love for South Carolina inspired him to serve until his last day, and we are praying for the Edwards family during this difficult time."

Associated Press: SC says goodbye to former Gov. James Edwards

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=E17pWttW

Former Gov. James Edwards ran South Carolina for four years. But at his funeral Monday, his son-in-law Ken Wingate said he should be remembered for far more than that. His flag-draped coffin was a reminder that he joined the military in 1944 at age 17 to fight in World War II. He was an oral surgeon.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley joined former Govs. Dick Riley, David Beasley and Mark Sanford among a host of other state politicians and officials at the funeral at St. Phillip's Church in downtown Charleston.

Post and Courier: Gov. Jim Edwards remembered for his humanity at funeral today

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC1603/141229455>

Schuyler Kropf

Former Gov. Jim Edwards was remembered for his humor, humanity and humility in a Charleston funeral service Monday that drew a host of dignitaries, including at least three former governors, leaders from the medical community and friends from decades back.

Note: Among the former governors who joined current executive Gov. Nikki Haley were Richard Riley, David Beasley and Mark Sanford.

WIS: Advocate for ethics reform says proposal may not reach local level

<http://www.wistv.com/story/27724066/advocate-for-ethics-reform-says-proposal-may-not-reach-local-level>

Will Whitson

One advocate of ethics reform in South Carolina said there is not enough focus on local government in the fight to create tougher ethics laws. "There are other ethics problems that can occur at any level, including local government," said Lynn Teague of the League of Women Voters. The group has voiced the need for an ethics overhaul in South Carolina government for years.

Note: "We have watched a Lt. Governor get indicted," Governor Nikki Haley said. "We've watched a speaker get indicted. We've watched a senator get indicted and I have removed eight sheriffs."

Associated Press: Judge questions Berkeley Sheriff's DUI arrest

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=5JRx0AZf

A judge is questioning a state trooper's arrest of the Berkeley County sheriff on drunken driving and hit and run charges, saying South Carolina law only allows the county coroner to arrest the sheriff. Sheriff Wayne DeWitt was arrested around 6 a.m. Sunday after Hanahan Police stopped him because his truck matched the description of a vehicle involved in a hit and run minutes earlier, according to the state Highway Patrol.

Note: DeWitt has been sheriff in Berkeley County since 1994 and was re-elected this year. He remained in office Monday. Gov. Nikki Haley can't by law suspend a sheriff until he is indicted.

The Atlantic: Is the Most Powerful Conservative in America Losing His Edge?

Erick Erickson built his career on stoking populist rage. But now the man who steers the Tea Party says conservative anger has grown toxic and self-defeating.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/12/is-the-most-powerful-conservative-in-america-losing-his-edge/383503/>

Molly Ball

Eric Erickson - the editor in chief of RedState.com, a right-wing pundit whom Democrats loathe and Republicans fear, a man known for his intemperate remarks, and arguably the most powerful conservative in America today—eats his chicken wings with a fork and knife.

Note: A South Carolina state lawmaker named Nikki Haley was considered a long shot for the 2010 gubernatorial nomination when she caught Erickson's fancy with her conservative zeal. For 10 days straight, RedState featured her on its front page, urging readers to donate. Haley gained momentum, and a late endorsement from Sarah Palin helped catapult her to the top of the field. "RedState was there in the very beginning," Haley, who considers Erickson a "dear friend," told me. "I was 'Nikki who?'" Haley was just reelected to a second term as South Carolina's governor, and has been on the longer lists of potential 2016 vice-presidential nominees.

The State: SC ethics attorney to join Spearman's education team

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/29/3898397/sc-ethics-attorney-to-join-spearman.html>

Jamie Self

The attorney and recently silenced spokeswoman for South Carolina's ethics watchdog agency is leaving for another state government job. Attorney Cathy Hazelwood said she will leave the S.C. State Ethics Commission early next month to work at the Department of Education under Republican Superintendent-Elect Molly Spearman.

Note: Hazelwood used to be a go-to source for insights on how to read the state's ethics laws. Media frequently sought her expertise as ethics complaints arose against high-profile public officials, including Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Columbia's Democratic Mayor Steve Benjamin.

Note: Hazelwood asked Haley to reimburse the state for the cost of a security detail that went on a trip attended by Haley's campaign staff. Hayden later said Haley did not have to reimburse the state for the security detail because the trip was not campaign related.

Berkeley Independent: S.C. laws muddy sheriff's DUI arrest

<http://www.berkeleyind.com/article/20141229/BI01/141229794/1071/BI>

Lindsay Street

The only man with the authority to arrest Berkeley County's chief law officer had just left church and was eating at a restaurant Sunday morning when he got a call from a friend. Sheriff Wayne DeWitt had been arrested by the S.C. Highway Patrol for a suspected DUI.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Greenville News: Bill would require release of autopsy reports related to cause of death cases

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/pickens-county/2014/12/29/bill-require-release-autopsy-reports-related-cause-death-cases-tucker-hipps/21008103/>

Ron Barnett

State Sen. Larry Martin said he pre-filed the bill in response to a state Supreme Court ruling that came out after the legislative session ended last summer that found that autopsy reports are "medical records" and thus exempt from disclosure under the state's Freedom of Information Act.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Superintendent-elect says she'll be more positive

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=SNJ4HQuK

Seanna Adcox

Superintendent-elect Molly Spearman says she wants to bring an optimistic, collaborative approach to improving South Carolina's schools. The former director of the state Association of School Administrators takes over in January from Mick Zais, who had a contentious relationship with both the State Board of Education and teacher advocacy groups.

Post and Courier: Medical University Hospital, 12 other S.C. hospitals fined for medical mistakes
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC16/141229453>

Lauren Sausser

The federal Medicare program has penalized 13 South Carolina hospitals, including Medical University Hospital in Charleston, for making too many avoidable mistakes that harm patients. Those mistakes include catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central-line bloodstream infections and a third category called "serious complications," such as blood clots after surgery or wounds that split open following an operation.

Associated Press: Lane on I-95 Great Pee Dee bridge closed again

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/29/4695493/lane-on-i-95-great-pee-dee-bridge.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1>

Authorities have again closed a northbound lane on the Interstate 95 bridge over the Great Pee Dee River for repairs. The South Carolina Department of Transportation said in a Twitter post around 8:45 a.m. Monday that the lane was being closed. Officials say more holes have appeared on the pavement of the bridge and must be patched.

Associated Press: SLED to investigate arrest of man with autism in Greenville

<http://www.goupstate.com/SLED-to-investigate-arrest-of-Tario-Anderson-of-Greenville?Title=SLED-to-investigate-arrest-of-man-with-autism-in-Greenville>

Greenville's police chief says he has asked state agents to investigate after officers shocked a 34-year-old autistic man with a Taser and arrested him after he apparently ran away from them because he was scared. Chief Ken Miller said several of his officers were investigating a report of shots fired late Christmas Eve when they saw Tario Anderson walking down the street.

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Post and Courier: Graham: China probably involved in Sony hacking

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141229/PC1603/141229473>

Schuyler Kropf

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham suggested China was involved in the alleged North Korean cyberattack on Sony Pictures. He also says stiffer U.S. sanctions are needed to make North Korea "feel the pain that is due." "I can't imagine anything this massive happening in North Korea without China being involved or at least knowing about it," Graham said on CNN's "State of the Union" segment Sunday.

Local News:

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/&ihp=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.

Island Packet: Buckwalter Place owners sell 34 acres to Shelter Cove Towne Center developer

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/29/3510621/buckwalter-place-owners-sell-34.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Matt McNab

The owners of Buckwalter Place have sold the 34 acres the Bluffton Public Development Corporation attempted to purchase earlier this year to the developer of Shelter Cove Towne Centre on Hilton Head Island. Buckwalter Place announced the sale to Blanchard & Calhoun affiliate BC Buckwalter in a news release last week.

Island Packet: Beaufort makes 'Coastal Living' warm-weather getaways list for 2015

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/29/3510449_beaufort-makes-coastal-living.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

"Coastal Living" magazine can't get enough of Beaufort's coastal charm. The city is once again on a list of places to go, published online last week. South Carolina, and specifically Beaufort, are among the 20 Great Warm-Weather Getaways for 2015. In 2013, Beaufort was number one on the Happiest Seaside Towns list published by the magazine.

National News:

Associated Press: Being uninsured in America will cost you more

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/29/4695598_being-uninsured-in-america-will.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

Being uninsured in America will cost you more in 2015. It's the first year all taxpayers have to report to the Internal Revenue Service whether they had health insurance for the previous year, as required under President Barack Obama's law. Those who were uninsured face fines, unless they qualify for one of about 30 exemptions, most of which involve financial hardships.

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