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Subject: Morning Clips – Tuesday, December 23, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Post and Courier: Palmetto Sunrise: Nikki Haley announces another cabinet appointee

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141223/PC1603/141229792>

Cynthia Roldan

Another of Gov. Nikki Haley's previous appointees will be sticking around for her second term. Bob Toomey will continue to serve as director of the South Carolina Department of Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. He was first appointed by Haley in January 2011.

Note: "Whether it's selflessly taking on the role as chairman of the Prescription Drug Abuse Council or volunteering his time with those in need, his eagerness to serve others has had a huge impact on the agency's effectiveness and it truly is a blessing for all South Carolinians," Haley said in a written statement of Toomey.

Cola Daily: Gov. Nikki Haley reappoints director of state's drug, alcohol prevention agency

<http://coladaily.com/2014/12/23/gov-nikki-haley-reappoints-director-of-states-drug-alcohol-prevention-agency/>

Kelly Petty

Bob Toomey, director of the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, was reappointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to continue his work with the agency. Toomey was picked by Haley in 2011 to oversee the agency's goal of preventing the effects of substance abuse through intervention, treatment and recovery support services.

Note: "We have been grateful for Director Toomey's leadership and service at DAODAS over the last four years, and we couldn't be more excited for the tremendous opportunity his leadership presents for the agency going forward," Haley said. "Whether it's selflessly taking on the role as chairman of the Prescription Drug Abuse Council or volunteering his time with those in need, his eagerness to serve others has had a huge impact on the agency's effectiveness and it truly is a blessing for all South Carolinians."

WTMA: Toomey to Remain Director of SC Dept. of Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Services

[http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?](http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?m=58&ts=1419294906&article=046FA5D88A1A11E4B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2)

[m=58&ts=1419294906&article=046FA5D88A1A11E4B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2](http://www.wtma.com/common/more.php?m=58&ts=1419294906&article=046FA5D88A1A11E4B51EFEFDADE6840A&mode=2)

The director of the South Carolina Department of Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse services will continue to serve in his role. Gov. Nikki Haley made the announcement on Monday that Bob Toomey would stay.

Note: "We have been grateful for Director Toomey's leadership and service at DAODAS over the last four years, and we couldn't be more excited for the tremendous opportunity his leadership presents for the agency going forward," said Haley in a statement.

The State: More SC travelers driving on state's crumbling roads during holidays

http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/22/3889292_more-sc-travelers-driving-on-states.html?rh=1

Cassie Cope

As S.C. lawmakers are working to come up with a solution to repair South Carolina's crumbling roads, a record number of Palmetto State residents will be driving during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Interstates and primary roads carry 75 percent of South Carolina's traffic, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Note: Gov. Nikki Haley has said she would veto an increase to the gas tax. Haley has not yet announced a formal roads plan, saying it will come next month.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Rock Hill Herald: Choice to head DSS appears qualified

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/22/6648152/choice-to-head-dss-appears-qualified.html?sp=/100/105/121/>

Editorial

One of Gov. Nikki Haley's most important tasks during her second term will be ensuring that serious problems at the S.C. Department of Social Services are fixed. We hope Susan Alford, her nominee as the agency's new director, will bring the necessary zeal and leadership to the job.

Post and Courier: U.S. military still in Iraq mix

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141223/PC1002/141229806/1021/us-military-still-in-iraq-mix>

Editorial

More than 1,000 additional U.S. troops will soon be headed to Iraq to join the 1,700 already there. Their mission, says President Barack Obama, is strictly advisory; none will be combat troops. They will be there to train the Iraqi army and Sunni militias for the fight against the Islamic State (ISIS).

Post and Courier: Raise the architectural bar

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141223/PC1002/141229807/1021>

Editorial

Since Charleston's Board of Architectural Review was established in the early 1930s, its challenges have changed. Now it deals less with applications to tear down old buildings and more with moving them to different sites. It's less about what color to allow owners to paint their houses and more about whether additions would erode the buildings' historic character.

Aiken Standard: Tanks closures are a positive step forward

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141223/AIK0201/141229882/1018/AIK02>

Editorial

The authorization to proceed on tank cleanup at Savannah River Site is a milestone for the Department of Energy, and represents a needed environmental safety measure for the future. The agency approved closures of the underground liquid waste tanks in the H Tank Farm last week after a number of department reviews and receiving feedback from the public.

South Carolina News:

Times and Democrat: S.C. State seeking \$13M more from state

http://thetandd.com/news/s-c-state-seeking-m-more-from-state/article_c1b5df6a-8a6e-11e4-a0c5-cffc073c77f8.html

Dale Linder-Altman

South Carolina State University is asking state lawmakers for a one-time appropriation of \$6 million to repay a loan from the S.C. Budget and Control Board as part of a larger request. As part of the institution's 2015-16 budget package, it is asking for some \$13 million in one-time funds in addition to an increase in the funds it receives each year

Rock Hill Herald: Appeals court: Chester County can open tire plant bids

http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/22/6647333_appeals-court-declines-to-stop.html?rh=1

Bristow Marchant

Chester County can move forward with awarding a contract for initial work on the Giti Tire plant after judges on Monday declined to hear an appeal that would have stopped the county from opening bids it already has received. The state Court of Appeals did not hear the appeal from Richardson Construction Co., filed last week after a Circuit Court judge's order stopping the county's bidding process was lifted.

WIS: Harrell: Use of campaign funds for personal use should not be illegal

<http://www.wistv.com/story/27690502/harrell-use-of-campaign-funds-for-personal-use-should-not-be-illegal>

Will Whitson

In October, former South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell pleaded guilty to six counts of use of campaign funds for personal expenses. Following that, Harrell resigned his seat in the House of Representatives ending his tenure as speaker. However, Harrell told reporters a week ago that he is considering a political comeback which he legally cannot do for three years.

The State: State still dealing with ice damage long after storm

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/22/3889039/state-still-dealing-with-ice-damage.html>

The Story: An extreme cold front ran into saturated clouds over South Carolina Feb. 10, resulting in one of the worst ice storms in South Carolina history. Trees snapped in almost every part of the state, but the worst damage hit a corridor from McCormick County south to Colleton County and then east to Williamsburg County.

The Update: In response to the ice storm, the S.C. Emergency Management Division staged its first Winter Weather Awareness Week in early December, reminding about the importance of preparing for storms.

The State: Ex-Sheriff Metts agrees again to plead guilty to federal charge – this time without a no-prison guarantee

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/22/3888309/ex-sheriff-metts-agrees-again.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Ex-Lexington County Sheriff James Metts might do a stint in prison after all. On Monday, Metts and his lawyers, along with federal prosecutors, filed a new proposed plea agreement – but this time without demanding that U.S. Judge Terry Wooten keep him out of prison by giving him a no-prison probationary sentence.

Post and Courier: Alleged bribery being investigated at Joint Base Charleston

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141222/PC1603/141229814>

Schuyler Kropf

Authorities are investigating a case of alleged bribery at Joint Base Charleston involving an employee who oversees contract awards and the operator of a construction business who bid on work there. Though no charges have been formally filed, the allegations are spelled out in a request to approve a search warrant that was signed by a federal magistrate in Charleston earlier this month.

Local News:

Post and Courier: Local law enforcement more aware, vigilant after New York officer killings

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141222/PC16/141229802>

Melissa Boughton

Minutes before their shifts began Monday evening, Berkeley County Sheriff's deputies were briefed about what they missed over the weekend: a homicide in Moncks Corner, shots fired in Sangaree, construction thefts in Cane Bay and the fatal execution-style shootings of two officers in New York.

Aiken Standard: Rural Health Services received Affordable Care Act funding

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20141222/AIK0101/141229869/1004>

Rural Health Services recently received \$12,436 in Affordable Care Act funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The nonprofit was among 17 health centers in South Carolina recognized for quality improvement achievements.

National News:

Associated Press: Appeals court strikes down NC abortion law

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=VQB58y8G

Larry O'Dell

A North Carolina law requiring abortion providers to show and describe an ultrasound to the pregnant woman is "ideological in intent" and violates doctors' free-speech rights, a federal appeals court ruled Monday. Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III wrote that the law goes far beyond what most states have done to ensure that a woman gives informed consent to an abortion.

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