

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 19, 2014

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: SC Gov. Haley concerned about Chinese tire tariff

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=1EMSC2Lk

Gov. Nikki Haley wants the U.S. Commerce Department to lower a tariff on tires made in China by Giti Tire, which is planning a \$560 million plant in South Carolina. The Herald of Rock Hill reports (<http://bit.ly/1GZkR9j>) that the governor wrote a letter to the federal agency this week saying the nearly 18 percent tariff "inequitably affects Giti's business."

Tire Business: S.C. Gov. intervenes on Giti's behalf

<http://www.tirebusiness.com/article/20141219/NEWS/141219897/s-c-gov-intervenes-on-git-is-behalf>

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has asked the U.S. Department of Commerce to reconsider the countervailing duty it imposed on Giti Tire USA Ltd., saying Giti's duty rate — which is 2 percentage points higher than the general duty — "inequitably affects Giti's business."

Note: "If this error is not corrected quickly, it will hurt Giti's competitive position with their extremely cost-sensitive domestic customer based," Ms. Haley wrote. "I urge Commerce to quickly resolve this issue before it inequitably affects Giti's business as they build their new facility in our state."

Note: Chaney Adams, Ms. Haley's press secretary, added: "Governor Haley has always said we have to take care of our businesses and workers. Giti is a company that will take care of a lot of our families, and so when she became aware of the tariff situation, it was important to her to contact the Obama administration directly."

Tire Reviews: S.C. Governor Wants Commerce Department to Reconsider Giti's Tariff

<http://www.tirereview.com/commerce-department-giti-tariff/>

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley wrote a letter to the commerce department asking them to reconsider the 17.69% tariff against Giti Tire (USA) Inc. for its Chinese produced tires, according to The State.

Note: In her letter, Haley asked the department to revise the tariff rate against Giti and urges the commerce department to "quickly resolve this issue before it inequitably affects Giti's business as they build their new facility in our state."

Herald Independent: Kiswire to begin second phase of expansion

http://www.heraldindependent.com/news/home_top-news/150941324/Kiswire-to-begin-second-phase-of-expansion

This phase, a \$30 million investment, is expected to result in 45 new jobs in Newberry. The first phase of Kiswire Inc. Steel Cord Division, announced in January 2013, represented a \$15 million investment and 30 new jobs, which came to fruition when production began at its new manufacturing site in December of last year.

Note: "Kiswire is a great South Carolina company that has been operating in our state for 15 years and their expansion is further proof that companies in the tire industry continue to find success here. We thank Kiswire for their commitment to doing business and growing in our state, and congratulate them on the decision to invest \$30 million and create 45 new jobs in Newberry County," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: SC's Nov. jobless rate unchanged at 6.7 percent

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

Jeffrey Collins

South Carolina's unemployment rate remained unchanged in November at 6.7 percent, the state Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday. The number of South Carolinians working also

reached a record high for another month at 2.05 million people in November as the state added about 5,100 jobs, according to the agency.

The State: South Carolina sets employment records in November

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/19/3882939/south-carolina-sets-employment.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1>
More people entered the job search in South Carolina in November as the number of state residents who are working reached a record high, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday. The state's unemployment rate remained unchanged from October at 6.7 percent. The number of people working reached 2,051,511, while the labor force expanded by 5,563 people to an all-time high of 2,197,756.

Post and Courier: S.C. jobless rate holds at 6.7 percent in November

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20141219/PC05/141219385>

Warren L. Wise

South Carolina's unemployment rate held steady at 6.7 percent in November after climbing for four straight months, according to the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The national jobless rate remained unchanged at 5.8 percent. The state's labor force continues to hit record highs.

Note: The state's labor force continues to hit record highs. The state agency reported nearly 2.2 million people in the labor pool, expanding for a fifth consecutive month as more people look for work in the improving economy.

The State: Prosecutors moving quickly on Metts case, want department's lawyer to testify about 'criminal acts'

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/12/19/3883230/prosecutors-moving-quickly-on.html?sp=/99/132/154/#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

Stung by a judge's rejection of their no-prison plea deal offer to accused lawbreaker ex-Lexington County Sheriff Jimmy Metts, federal prosecutors are moving forward with their legal guns blazing. Prosecutors have filed a motion seeking to force lawyer John Tate, the Lexington County sheriff's department general counsel under Metts while he was sheriff, to testify at Metts' upcoming trial in early January.

Associated Press: Feds want lawyer to talk to Metts' investigators

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=r4AbPHnM

Prosecutors are asking a judge to order the lawyer who advised the Lexington County Sheriff's Office while James Metts was sheriff to talk to investigators about his former boss. Prosecutors say John Tate can't claim attorney-client privilege if his client was a public official using government resources for criminal activities.

Local News:

Beaufort Gazette: Beaufort County economic development partner votes to disband

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/19/3496879/beaufort-county-economic-development.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>

Zach Murdock

Beaufort County's embattled economic development partner, the Lowcountry Economic Alliance, will be no more this spring. The group's board of directors unanimously voted Friday morning to dissolve the nonprofit organization after months of uncertainty about its ability to secure funding next year and alliance director Kim Statler's decision to take a new job at the S.C. Department of Commerce.

Sun News: End of tourist season brings more jobless in Horry, Georgetown

http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/12/19/4679137_end-of-tourist-season-brings-more.html?sp=/99/209/&rh=1

Horry County's unemployment rate rose 0.6 points to 7.4 percent in November as the tourist industry shed 2,100 jobs statewide for the off-season, the state Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday. Despite that drop, the leisure and hospitality industry had the second highest year-over-year gain in jobs, totaling 8,600 more this November versus November 2013.

Beaufort Gazette: Flu virus hits Beaufort County schools earlier, harder than usual

http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/12/18/3495739_flu-virus-hits-beaufort-county.html?sp=/99/100/&rh=1

Sarah Bowman

Winter break couldn't come soon enough for some Beaufort County schools, which are experiencing a high numbers of flu cases early in the season. It's gotten so bad at Bridges Preparatory School in Beaufort, it discussed canceling class Friday to send kids home early for the break, which starts Monday.

National News:

Washington Post: People like Obama's immigration action. They also think he shouldn't have done it.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/12/19/on-immigration-the-white-house-hopes-policy-trumps-politics-again/>

Aaron Blake

Poll after poll has shown more Americans oppose than support President Obama's executive action on immigration. This week, though, came the new Washington Post-ABC News poll. It shows a significantly different picture: 52 percent of Americans support the executive action, while 44 percent oppose it -- an eight-point margin in favor of the action.

Associated Press: Obama says North Korea hacked Sony, vows response
<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/fa1587d9eace484dbe80f07147faeff3/fbi-conclusively-links-north-korea-sony-hack>

Eric Tucker, Ted Bridis

President Barack Obama declared Friday that Sony Pictures Entertainment "made a mistake" in shelving a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader and pledged the U.S. would respond "in a place and manner and time that we choose" to the hack attack on Sony that the FBI blamed on the communist government.

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304