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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Friday, March 28, 2014

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BMW Announcement:

Associated Press: BMW plans \$1 billion expansion in South Carolina

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

Jeffrey Collins

BMW is celebrating its 20th anniversary of building cars in the United States by investing \$1 billion in its plant in South Carolina to build two of its new X-series vehicles at the facility that ushered in a wave of foreign automakers building Southern plants.

Note: "We love Germany. But South Carolina is now the BMW capital of the world," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said at a glitzy ceremony to both celebrate the expansion and honor what the German automaker has meant to the state.

Post and Courier: BMW announces billion-dollar expansion of Upstate production facility, more jobs

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC05/140329340/1010/bmw-announces-billion-dollar-expansion-of-upstate-production-facility-more-jobs>

Tyrone Richardson

BMW is planning to invest \$1 billion and add hundreds of more jobs at its Upstate production facility as part of the automaker's plan to produce another SUV model. The company this afternoon announced that it will expand production with its X7 model, a new SUV that includes three-row seating.

Note: "BMW's decision to locate in South Carolina was a game-changer 20 years ago, and today's commitment of another \$1 billion investment and 800 jobs in Spartanburg County is another game-changing moment," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "This is a real testament to our strong business environment and skilled workforce and we couldn't be more excited to see BMW continuing to grow and invest in our state for many years to come."

New York Times: BMW to Invest \$1 Billion to Expand Its South Carolina Factory

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/business/bmw-to-invest-1-billion-to-expand-its-south-carolina-factory.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

Jack Ewing

BMW said on Friday that it would invest \$1 billion over the next two years in its factory in Spartanburg, S.C., which will become the German carmaker's largest production site. Expansion of the plant had been expected, but BMW did not disclose the scope of its investment until Friday at an event that Penny Pritzker, the secretary of commerce for the United States, and Nikki Haley, governor of South Carolina, planned to attend.

USA Today: BMW adds 800 jobs in S.C. for new X7 SUV

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/cars/2014/03/28/bmw-south-carolina-x7/7018229/>

Chris Woodyard

BMW announced Friday that it will sink another \$1 billion more into its South Carolina plant and add 800 jobs to build yet another model there, a three-row crossover SUV. The new X7 will be the fourth model being built at the plant in Spartanburg, which opened 20 years ago and has become a model of how a foreign brand can successfully build vehicles in the U.S. and export them around the world.

Greenville News: BMW to expand by 50%; add 800 jobs; build X7

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/BUSINESS/303280052/BMW-expand-by-50-add-800-jobs-build-X7>

David Dykes

BMW made an expected — but still stunning — announcement that it will expand its only U.S. manufacturing plant with a \$1 billion investment to increase capacity 50 percent, add 800 jobs and produce

a new, larger SUV for the company's world markets.

The State: BMW to invest \$1 billion, hire 800 as it expands Spartanburg County plant to make large SUV
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3353906/bmw-to-invest-1-billion-hire-800.html?sp=/99/101/#storylink=cpy>

BMW will bring another 800 jobs to South Carolina as it invests \$1 billion to expand its Greer manufacturing plant. The German luxury automaker made the announcement shortly after 1 p.m. Friday at the Greer plant, its only North American manufacturing facility. The company will expand the plant to make its new X7, its largest SUV.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: It's official: BMW announces addition of X7 to Spartanburg County plant
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140328/ARTICLES/140329787/1112?Title=BMW-says-X7-model-will-be-built-in-Spartanburg-County>

BMW Group announced Friday plans to add production of the X7 sports activity vehicle to its Spartanburg County facility, a \$1 billion investment expected to create 800 jobs. The announcement coincides with the Spartanburg facility's 20th anniversary. The plant near Greer opened for business in July 1994.

WYFF: BMW announces \$1 billion Upstate investment
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/bmw-announces-1-billion-upstate-investment/25212998>

BMW has announced a major investment in Upstate South Carolina that will dramatically increase plant capacity and create hundreds of new jobs. Dr. Norbert Reithofer, chairman of the board of management, BMW Group, was in Greer to announce that the company plans to invest \$ 1 billion in Upstate plant.

Automotive News: BMW X7 poised to make S.C. plant an even bigger manufacturing powerhouse
<http://www.autonews.com/article/20140327/OEM04/140329889/bmw-x7-poised-to-make-s-c-plant-an-even-bigger-manufacturing#>

Diana T. Kurylko

Friday's announcement of BMW's next expansion at its Spartanburg, S.C., plant and the addition of the X7 crossover will mark another milestone for a factory that's become a centerpiece of BMW's global manufacturing strategy.

Greer Today: \$1 billion, X7, 800 jobs is BMW announcement heard around the world
<http://greertoday.com/greer-sc/1-billion-x7-800-jobs-is-bmw-announcement-heard-around-the-world/2014/03/28/#sthash.1n0xZqyV.dpuf>

Jim Fair

BMW announced a \$1 billion investment by 2016 to extend its X family with a new X7 at Greer's BMW Manufacturing plant. The expansion will create 800 new jobs increasing the workforce to about 8,800 on site and increase plant capacity up to 450,000 vehicles, said Norbert Reithofer, chairman of the board for BMW Group.

February Unemployment News:

Post and Courier: South Carolina jobless rate plummets to 5.7% in February
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC05/140329358/1010/south-carolina-unemployment-rate-dropped-to-57-percent-in-february-report-says>

Tyrone Richardson

South Carolina's unemployment rate plummeted to 5.7 percent in February, the largest one-month decrease in recorded history, state officials reported Friday. The state's number of unemployed for February was down 0.7 percent from the state's 6.4 percent jobless rate in January, according to the state Department of Employment and Workforce.

Note: "This morning we are celebrating our unemployment rate dropping to 5.7 percent and the fact that more of our citizens are working than ever before," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "It's a great day in South Carolina."

Sun News: Myrtle Beach area unemployment falls sharply
<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2014/03/28/4127425/myrtle-beach-area-unemployment.html?sp=/99/209/&ihp=1>

Steve Jones

Horry County's unemployment rate fell by more than two points last month, an unusual statistical move for

the middle of the winter and a sign that both the Grand Strand and state economies are improving more quickly than anticipated, according to Brad Dean, CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.

Note: The news was hailed by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley. "This morning we are celebrating our unemployment rate dropping to 5.7 percent and the fact that more of our citizens are working than ever before," she said.

Associated Press: SC unemployment drops to 5.7 percent in February

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=iXnsJ0xd

South Carolina's unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent in February, marking the steepest one-month drop recorded since officials started keeping track of employment numbers almost 40 years ago. The Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the drop, down from 6.4 percent the previous month, also marked the ninth straight month that unemployment has dropped in South Carolina.

The State: SC jobless rate improving rapidly

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3353641/sc-jobless-rate-improving-rapidly.html?sp=/99/205/&ihp=1>

Kristy Eppley Rupon

South Carolina's unemployment rate plummeted to 5.7 percent in February, its lowest level in six years and a full percentage point below the national rate, according to the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The drop from 6.4 percent in January is the largest month-over-month decrease since the government began keeping data nearly four decades ago.

Greenville News: State's jobless rate reaches 5-year low

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/BUSINESS/303280042/State-s-jobless-rate-reaches-5-year-low?nclick_check=1

Angelia Davis

The number of unemployed in this state fell to 5.7 percent in February, its lowest level since 2008, according to new figures released today. The state Department of Employment and Workforce reported that the 0.7 percent drop from January figures is the largest one-month decrease ever recorded.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Unemployment drops in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140328/WIRE/140329785/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Unemployment-drops-in-Spartanburg-Cherokee-and-Union-counties>

South Carolina's unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent in February, marking the steepest one-month drop recorded since officials started keeping track of employment numbers almost 40 years ago. The Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the drop, down from 6.4 percent the previous month, also marked the ninth straight month that unemployment has dropped in South Carolina.

S.C. Political News:

Post and Courier: Another Democrat in U.S. Senate race vs Lindsey Graham

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1603/140329353/1031/another-democrat-in-us-senate-race-vs-lindsey-graham>

Schuyler Kropf

Another Democrat has entered the race challenging Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham. State Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, filed Friday. His candidacy sets up a primary with fellow Democrat Jay Stamper. The addition comes Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott now has a primary opponent in this June's primary. Randall Young of Greenville filed Thursday.

Times and Democrat: Hutto seeking U.S. Senate seat

http://thetandd.com/news/hutto-seeking-u-s-senate-seat/article_2e0e788c-b6af-11e3-aa50-0019bb2963f4.html

State Sen. Brad Hutto has added his name to the growing list of people wanting U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's seat. Hutto, an Orangeburg Democrat, filed for the seat Friday. "Washington is broken, and we need someone from outside of the Beltway to help improve life for South Carolinians," Hutto said in a release.

Associated Press: US Sen. Tim Scott draws primary opponent

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=DuNTr2g0

Republican U.S. Sen. Tim Scott now has a primary opponent this year. Randall Young of Greenville filed papers Thursday to enter the race. Young could not immediately be reached for comment. His filing papers

had only a Greenville post office box and listed only a cellphone that was not a working number.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: Judge won't revisit SC inmate mental health ruling

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=xDIV2uUJ

Meg Kinnard

A judge has denied a request by South Carolina prison officials that he should reconsider a ruling on how to deal with inmates' mental health treatment. Circuit Judge Michael Baxley said during a hearing Friday that he disagreed with the Department of Corrections' arguments that his ruling didn't address a number of the agency's defenses.

Greenville News: Judge denies prison system motion

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140328/NEWS09/303280048/Judge-denies-prison-system-motion>

Tim Smith

A circuit judge has denied one of the state's motions to amend his order finding the prison system violated the rights of mentally ill inmates. Lawyers for the prison system are asking Judge Michael Baxley to reconsider his January order of 45 pages that offered horrific stories of how some mentally ill inmates were treated.

Post and Courier: Hundreds of College of Charleston students walk out of class, protest hiring of Glenn McConnell

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC16/140329339/1389/hundreds-of-college-of-charleston-students-walk-out-of-class-protest-hiring-of-glenn-mcconnell>

Andrew Knapp, Diane Knich

Hundreds of College of Charleston students gathered on campus Friday afternoon in a protest of the school's hiring of Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as its next president. Some of the students walked out of their classes and amassed on the Cistern along George Street.

National News:

CNN: Jeb Bush gets good reception from top GOP donors

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2014/03/28/jeb-bush-gets-good-reception-from-top-gop-donors/>

Kevin Bohn

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush spoke about foreign policy and the economic importance of immigration reform to a group of some of the most prominent Republican fund-raisers Thursday evening in Las Vegas, several attendees told CNN. Bush addressed a private, VIP dinner of major supporters of the Republican Jewish Coalition kicking off the group's spring meeting.

Brian Symmes

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