

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/29/2014 9:54:33 AM
Subject: Clips – Saturday, March 29, 2014

Clips – Saturday, March 29, 2014

BMW Announcement News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: It's official: BMW announces addition of X7 to Spartanburg County plant
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140328/ARTICLES/140329787/1112?p=1&tc=pg>

Trevor Anderson

Spartanburg County will boast the world's largest BMW plant by the end of 2016, executives with the Germany-based automaker said Friday. BMW Group announced it will add production of a new model—the X7 sports activity vehicle—to its local facility, a \$1 billion investment expected to create 800 jobs.

Note: "I could not be more thrilled. This is an absolutely wonderful day," Haley said. "We love Germany, but South Carolina is now the BMW capitol of the world. And that is a title that we will hold proudly."

Greenville News: BMW family to grow

Expansion to add new model, 800 jobs

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140329/BUSINESS/303290024/BMW-Greer-expand-50-add-new-SUV-add-800-jobs>

David Dykes

BMW made the expected — but still stunning — announcement Friday 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.

Note: "BMW gave us a hope we so desperately needed," Gov. Nikki Haley said.

The State: BMW will build new model X7 in Upstate

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3353906/bmw-to-invest-1-billion-hire-800.html#storylink=cpy>

Roddie Burris

German automaker BMW kicked its investment in South Carolina into overdrive Friday. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley led a delegation of business officials, a national and international press corps and elected leaders such as U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, both South Carolina Republicans, to the gleaming BMW facility off Interstate 85 in the Upstate.

Greenville News: BMW, state look toward plant's future

http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140329/BUSINESS/303290025/BMW-state-look-toward-plant-s-future?nclick_check=1

Rudolph Bell

When BMW began making cars in Greer 20 years ago, it planned on making 100,000 a year. Today, its local plant makes three times that number, about 300,000 a year. And BMW said Friday it plans to be making 450,000 vehicles a year in Greer by the end of 2016 — four and a half times the original number.

Gov. Nikki Haley News:

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Judge fails to settle Afghan veteran's suit for insurance from civilian job

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140328/ARTICLES/140329769?tc=ar>

Kim Kimzey

A circuit court judge has denied a summary judgment for a Spartanburg County man suing the S.C. Department of Corrections, but ruled the claim can proceed in court. Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Aldous Copeland said his employer, the SCDOC, did not immediately reinstate his health insurance after he returned from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Note: "As a military wife, Governor Haley understands firsthand just how important it is to take care of the people who take care of us and has made supporting our servicemen and women a major priority of her administration and will continue to do so," spokesman Doug Mayer said in a written statement.

Unemployment Rate News:

Rock Hill Herald: Chester unemployment rate is lowest in more than 12 years; SC, York, Lancaster rates fall too

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/28/5814683/sc-to-release-state-unemployment.html?sp=/100/101/&ihp=1#storylink=cpy>

Don Worthington

Chester County's unemployment dipped below 8 percent in February for the first time in more than 12 years, according to federal and state statistics, while South Carolina saw the steepest one-month drop since officials started tracking employment numbers almost 40 years ago.

Florence Morning News: Unemployment in SC takes big dip in February

http://www.scnw.com/news/business/article_974a736a-b6e5-11e3-9e64-001a4bcf6878.html

John D. Russell

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) proudly announced Friday the state saw a significant decrease in unemployment in February. It represents the largest one-month decrease, from 6.4 percent in January to 5.7 percent in February, ever recorded since the data series began in 1976.

Times and Democrat: Region's jobless rates hit 6-year low

http://thetandd.com/business/region-s-jobless-rates-hit-year-low/article_16b624b8-b6fb-11e3-b4d5-0019bb2963f4.html

Gene Zaleski

Unemployment rates in The Times and Democrat Region fell in February to the lowest levels in nearly six years. Orangeburg County's unemployment rate fell to 8.2 percent in February, from 10.3 percent in January. The February level was the lowest the county had seen since May 2008, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Item: Sumter bests U.S. jobless rate for 1st time in 14 years

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/sumter-bests-u-s-jobless-rate-for-st-time-in/article_4375bbc8-e02e-5a61-9f4a-cb5a5479787b.html

Braden Bunch

The job picture in Sumter County is better than the national average for the first time in nearly 14 years, according to figures released by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce on Friday. New positive numbers from the DEW's monthly unemployment rate report also indicate more people were working in Sumter County in February than have been in nearly seven years.

S.C. Political News:

Associated Press: SC Sen. Hutto to run for Graham's US Senate seat

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=jmiRg2uG

Jeffrey Collins

One of South Carolina's leading Democrats is entering the race to try to keep U.S. Sen Lindsey Graham from a third term. Sen. Brad Hutto paid the \$10,440 filing fee Friday to make his surprise entry into the crowded race. He will remain in the state Senate while he runs. Hutto said he looked at Graham's poll numbers and decided there are not a lot of people happy with him in either party.

The State: Democratic state senator running for U.S. Senate seat held by Graham

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3354600/democratic-state-senator-running.html#storylink=cpy>

Andrew Shain

Brad Hutto, a leading Democrat in the state Senate, has filed to run for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Lindsey Graham. Hutto joins Columbia businessman Jay Stamper, who moved from Washington state last year to run against Graham, in seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat. Six Republicans have filed to challenge Graham in the June 10 GOP primary.

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

Martha Rose Brown

State Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of Seneca. Hutto said leadership in Washington, D.C. is broken and needs an outsider to fix it. "I'm frustrated just like everybody else. They can't get anything done," he said.

Florence Morning News: 2 SC House races heat up with new Florence filings

http://www.scnow.com/news/local/article_a5d6fc18-b6e1-11e3-91de-001a4bcf6878.html

Gavin Jackson

Two new Statehouse races have cropped up in Florence County while two other incumbents filed for office as the Sunday filing deadline nears. Filing on Friday, Republican Raleigh Ward Jr. is challenging Democrat Roger Kirby for Democrat Rep. Lester Branham Jr.'s seat in District 61.

Post and Courier: Thomas Ravenel will have S.C. license suspended for 6 months following DWI conviction in New York

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC16/140329317/1006/thomas-ravenel-to-have-sc-license-suspended-after-dwi-in-new-york>

Natalie Caula Hauff

Thomas Ravenel, a former state treasurer and current reality TV star, will have his driver's license suspended for six months after pleading guilty to a drunken driving charge in New York. The suspension covers his privileges in South Carolina as well. The East Hampton Star newspaper reported Ravenel pleaded guilty Wednesday to one misdemeanor count of driving while intoxicated.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Island Packet: Require all offenders to use interlock devices

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2014/03/28/3029010/require-all-offenders-to-use-interlock.html?sp=/99/342/1750/#storylink=cpy>

Editorial

South Carolina ranks seventh among the states in DUI deaths. In 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, 358 South Carolinians died because of drunken drivers. State lawmakers are to be commended for seriously considering Emma's Law, a bill intended to crack down on drunken driving, named for Emma Longstreet, a 6-year-old Lexington County girl killed by a repeat drunken driving offender in 2012.

Post and Courier: A friendly, legal game of bridge

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140329/PC1002/140329297/1021/a-friendly-legal-game-of-bridge>

Editorial

It's time to let people enjoy a friendly game of bridge or canasta - without breaking the law. According to a musty 1802 state anti-gambling law that is still on the books, games involving cards and dice are illegal. Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, intends to change that. It's about time someone did.

Post and Courier: Ride wind power to S.C. prosperity

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1002/140329299/1021/>

Editorial

Despite the fact that South Carolina, and most of the Southeast, has no utility-scale wind farms, we are reaping the benefits of the industry even today. On March 13, Cape Wind, the first proposed offshore wind farm in the United States, which is being built off the coast of Massachusetts, announced that it is buying its transmission cables from Abbeville manufacturer Prysmian (who also supplied the cables to Clemson's new turbine-testing center in North Charleston).

S.C. Federal Delegation News:

Rock Hill Herald: US Senator Tim Scott pledges to 'earn' votes and return power to South Carolina

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/28/5816912/us-senator-tim-scott-pledges-to.html?sp=/100/104/#storylink=cpy>

Jie Jenny Zou

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott pledged to "earn" the public's vote during a campaign stop at the Rock Hill/York County Airport on Friday morning that brought out local supporters and Republican Party leaders. Scott was appointed to the Senate by Gov. Nikki Haley in 2013 after fellow Republican and tea party favorite Jim DeMint resigned to pursue a job at a conservative think tank.

Spartanburg Herald Journal: Gowdy, Scott talk about health care reform in lecture at Wofford College
<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20140328/ARTICLES/140329775?tc=ar>

Kim Kimzey

Two Republican congressmen discussed what was called "perhaps the most defining piece of legislation for our times" — the Affordable Care Act — Friday at Wofford College. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy spoke as part of an ongoing guest lecture series on health care policy and administration.

The Item: Clyburn talks troubled youth at conference

http://www.theitem.com/news/local_news/clyburn-talks-troubled-youth-at-conference/article_128df958-632a-52d7-9a5f-0daa60536105.html

Bristow Marchant

Social workers have the power to change the direction of people's lives, a social work conference heard from Congressman Jim Clyburn on Friday. And Clyburn said he knows from personal experience how much outside intervention can matter.

Legislative Session News:

The State: Solar business group blasts proposed SC law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/29/3355425/solar-business-group-blasts-proposed.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

Cracks in a carefully crafted solar energy bill for South Carolina emerged Friday as a renewable energy business group criticized the legislation now before the state Senate. The Alliance for Solar Choice, which represents some of the country's major rooftop solar companies, began contacting the media Friday to complain that the highly technical, 17-page bill unfairly favors utilities over the private solar market.

The State: Resort's troubles threaten to erode SC beach law

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/03/28/3354853/resorts-troubles-threaten-to-erode.html#storylink=cpy>

Sammy Fretwell

When ocean waves blast the seawall at Debordieu Beach, resort homes shake and nervous property owners wonder if their houses will one day wash into the Atlantic. Several dozen high-end homes, some featuring European stone masonry and elevators, lie behind the seawall that for 33 years has shielded the Georgetown County resort from flooding.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Judge won't revisit South Carolina inmate mental health ruling

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140328/PC1610/140329363/judge-wont-revisit-sc-inmate-mental-health-ruling>

Cynthia Roldan

Lawyers for the South Carolina Department of Corrections went before a judge on Friday in an effort to persuade him to change his ruling on how the agency has to address the treatment of mentally ill prisoners.

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 on Friday denied a request by South Carolina prison officials that he should reconsider a ruling on how to deal with mental health treatment behind bars, saying he stood by his decision in favor of inmates who sued nearly a decade ago.

Greenville News: Judge rejects request to toss prisons ruling

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20140329/NEWS09/303290028/Judge-rejects-request-toss-prisons-ruling>

Tim Smith

A circuit judge who ruled in January that mentally ill inmates have died in state prisons for lack of mental health care is refusing to toss out his 45-page order, explaining to lawyers that his strong language in the ruling was the result of the prison system's attitude throughout the litigation.

National News:

Associated Press: Health Law Legacy Eludes Obama As Changes Sink In

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_HEALTH_OVERHAUL?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

As a roller-coaster sign-up season winds down, President Barack Obama's health care law has indeed managed to change the country. Americans are unlikely to go back to a time when people with medical problems could be denied coverage. But Obama's overhaul needs major work of its own if it is to go down in history as a legacy achievement like Medicare or Social Security.

LA Times: Gov. Jerry Brown calls for Democratic senators to resign

<http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-pc-jerry-brown-calls-for-democratic-senators-to-resign-20140328,0,3041290.story#ixzz2xMFa67TA>

Chris Megerian

Gov. Jerry Brown called on three scandal-plagued state senators to resign on Friday, speaking out for the first time on a series of criminal cases that have sapped Democrats' power in the Capitol and tarnished the Legislature's image.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437