

Title: **Democrat slams Clemson coach**  
 Author: By CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)  
 Size: 63.08 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Democrat slams Clemson coach

Swinney criticized on  
award from group  
opposing gay marriage

By CASSIE COPE  
[ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

Clemson University head football coach Dabo Swinney should not appear at a fundraiser for a South Carolina group that opposes gay marriage, the top Democrat in the S.C. House said Friday.

Swinney is scheduled to appear June 2 at the Columbia event for the Palmetto Family Council, a conservative advocacy group that opposes same-sex marriage and abortion, and often allies itself with S.C. Republicans.

"I find it

highly inappropriate that Coach Swinney would appear at a fundraiser for an organization that is so openly discriminatory and politically motivated," House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, said in a statement. "I cannot fathom why Coach Swinney or anyone else would knowingly assist a group whose mission is to fight against equal rights

and equal treatment of others."

Family Council President Oran Smith, who helped craft South Carolina's 2006 gay marriage ban amendment, said Swinney will be

SEE **SWINNEY PAGE A9**

*'He should be  
free to speak  
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**Oran Smith,**  
Palmetto Family  
Council

## SWINNEY

FROM PAGE **A1**

honored for his Christian testimony, not political reasons.

"Like any other South Carolina citizen, he should be free to speak where he would like to," said Smith, who has led the Palmetto Family Council for 14 years.

Jeff Ayers of S.C. Equality, a gay rights advocacy group, said he is disappointed Swinney accepted an invitation to appear at a fundraiser for an organization that has been outspoken against lesbi-

an, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. "It's sending the wrong message to the LGBT students and faculty and supporters of Clemson."

At the event, the Palmetto Family Council also will recognize "faithful defenders of religious liberty in South Carolina," including at least one "prominent Gamecock," according to the organization's Facebook page.

Smith said that statement is a reference to Gamecock fan and state Solicitor General Bob Cook, who co-wrote a le-

gal brief regarding public prayer.

University of South Carolina athletics director Ray Tanner previously has spoken to the organization, according to the Family Council's website. The council recognized Tanner's foundation for its work on behalf of "economically and medically disadvantaged" S.C. children, said USC spokesman Wes Hickman.

Clemson spokeswoman Robin Denny said Swinney was notified several months ago that he would receive an award from the

Family Council based on personal factors, including the work of his foundation. "As far as we can surmise it is not a speaking engagement, merely an acceptance of an award."

The Palmetto Family Council is the S.C. associate of the Family Research Council, a national group that the Southern Poverty Law Center calls an anti-gay lobby and hate group.

Swinney, like Tanner, is a state-paid employee, Rutherford noted. "As a state employee, national figure and role model to

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kids all over the state, Coach Swinney should send a message that he has zero tolerance for discrimination and cancel his appearance."

Other state-paid employees — from Gov. Nikki Haley to Attorney General Alan Wilson, both Lexington Republicans, to legislators — have been outspoken in their opposition to gay marriage.

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, R-Greenville, defended Swinney.

A state employee — whether a head football coach, head baseball coach or director of an

agency — does not give up his or her right to free speech, he said.

"Dabo Swinney has been nothing but professional and positive," Bannister said. "The fact that he has a very strong faith and wants to talk about it on his time is absolutely appropriate and acceptable."

Nearly a year ago, Clemson's athletics program took heat from the Freedom From Religion Foundation. That organization, sent a five-page complaint to the university stating it was concerned that Swinney and Clemson were "co-min-

gling ... religion and athletics results, not from student initiative, but rather from the attitudes and unconstitutional behaviors of the coaching staff."

A Clemson attorney responded that the foundation's complaint "misconstrued important facts and made incorrect statements of the law." However, the foundation's concerns would be included in reviews of Clemson's programs, the letter said.

In an interview last year, Swinney said he played football with gay teammates when he was a wide receiver at the University

of Alabama, according to a CBS Sports article.

"Those are personal decisions that people have to make," Swinney said in the interview. "I mean everyone will be judged one day, but it's not up to me to judge somebody."

Rutherford commended Swinney for speaking out against judging others based on their sexual orientation, but said "the fundraiser he's attending is for a group whose sole mission is to judge and discriminate based on sexual orientation."

*Reach Cope  
 at (803) 771-8657.*



RICH GLICKSTEIN/RG@RGPIX.COM/RGPIX.COM

**Dabo Swinney in 2013 at  
 Williams-Brice Stadium**

Title: **NAACP to keep eye on police at Bikefest**  
 Author: BY CHRISTINA ELMORE celmore@postandcourier.com  
 Size: 96.41 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# NAACP to keep eye on police at Bikefest

Examples of past  
discrimination cited

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE  
celmore@postandcourier.com

It's been a year since unprecedented violence left three Summerville-area residents dead and seven people wounded at the Atlantic Beach Bikefest on the Grand Strand.

While state and local law enforcement agencies have launched a "complex" plan to heighten security for the annual Memorial Day weekend festi-

val, their tactics have some warning of potential profiling and harassment surrounding the event, which draws a mostly black crowd in the hundreds of thousands to the tiny, coastal town wedged in between Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach.

The history of Atlantic Beach dates back to the 1930s when it began as a coastal destination for blacks in the

Please see **BIKEFEST**, Page A4

## To file a complaint

To file a discrimination complaint during the Atlantic Beach Bikefest call 888-362-8683 or visit Sandy Grove Baptist Church at 1008 Carver St., Myrtle Beach.

# NAACP warns against racial profiling at annual Bikefest

**BIKEFEST**, from A1

segregated South. The town is only four blocks wide with a population of about 400 people, except during bike week. The annual bike celebration serves as a key moneymaker for it and surrounding areas.

The state branch of the NAACP announced this week that it will observe police activity, the treatment of black tourists, the practices of local businesses and watch traffic patterns as part of its "Operation Bike Week Justice." The effort is in its ninth year, the statement said.

Myrtle Beach Lt. Joey Crosby countered the concerns, saying

officers have received additional training to ensure that their practices are "fair, firm, but friendly."

Lonnie Randolph, the NAACP's state president, has said that he supports tactics that promote safety, but not those that unfairly target minorities.

The NAACP and others have settled a number of discrimination lawsuits against Myrtle Beach and area businesses alleging unequal treatment toward Bikefest attendees compared with the predominantly white crowd that attends a comparable "Harley Week" each year, according to a statement from the group.

"We've had instances when

facilities have closed their doors when people of color or African Americans came to eat. They were told that there was a private gathering and that was not an accurate statement," Randolph said. "And certain facilities locked their lavatory facilities when persons arrived." Randolph said he still recalls a fence that separated blacks and whites on the water decades ago.

"We have been working ... over the course of the years to try and make things as fair as they can possibly be under these conditions," he said.

The organization has intervened in the raising of prices during the black Bikefest, and spoken out against variances

on which streets are open to enthusiasts during both weeks.

A hotline the organization runs to field discrimination complaints during the festival receives numerous calls each year, he said.

## Violent weekend

Last year's triple homicide fell in Myrtle Beach, about 15 miles away from the town where the festival is based.

Police responded at 11 p.m. May 24 to the Bermuda Sands

resort to handle a brawl. They found that 24-year-old Keith Williams had been struck in a shooting. While tending to his wounds, first responders reported hearing more shots

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fired on the resort's balcony.

Sandy Geddis Barnwell, 22; Devonte Herman Dantzler, 21; and Jamie Alexander Williams, 28, all of the Summerville area, were killed.

Investigators said the shooting appeared to be tied to Charleston County gangs. A year later, the killings remain unsolved with few leads.

"The big thing is that we're constantly seeking the public's input," Crosby said. "They may see the information as not being related to the event, but they should contact us with any information they may have."

The Rev. Melody Geddis McFadden, Barnwell's aunt, said that her family has participated in numerous service projects in the young woman's memory and united with other victims of gun violence to plead for clues in the case and an end to the killings.

"There's a bond that we didn't necessarily want but that we've formed against our wills," McFadden said of the support her family has received from other victims. "We don't want any new members to our club. We want the violence to stop."

McFadden expressed frustration in the lack of leads in the case. Numerous witnesses are believed to have recorded video

and taken pictures of the melee, she said, but those images have not been turned over to police for fear of being labeled a "snitch."

"We haven't stopped thinking about this a day since it happened. We want justice. We want answers. We want information. We want the young people to change their minds because right now they think of giving information to the police as snitching, but we think of it as harboring a murderer. They're not going to understand until it's their loved one," she said.

Barnwell was considered an innocent bystander by police after being struck in the forehead by a stray bullet, McFadden said. It was Barnwell's first time attending the Bikefest, McFadden said.

### The 2015 festival

Last month, Gov. Nikki Haley referred to the festival as a "test year." She previously lobbied to have the event canceled in the wake of what had been described as an unprecedented amount of violence, but the town's officials and others fought against it.

Officials spent months developing new levels of man-

agement and cooperation between state and local authorities in preparation for the weekend, including doubling the presence of state agents for this year's festival, sensitivity training for officers and better control along some of the most popular cruising routes.

A "complex operational plan" this year includes the assistance of State Law Enforcement Division agents and additional officers from across the state and Georgia, Crosby said.

Randolph rebuffed what he described as efforts to label black attendees as violent and unruly. He cited the dialogue surrounding Bikefest in comparison with a majority white biker shootout this month in Waco, Texas, that left nine people dead as evidence.

"Even the press statements and releases described these young men as being members of clubs. That's very interesting that they would be described in such a manner when persons of color in other instances have been described as being in gangs. Incidents like these just show us how the treatment is different among people," Randolph said. "I'm here to protect the rights of citizens. The people that come to bike week have

a right to be treated fairly and they have a right to have their rights protected."

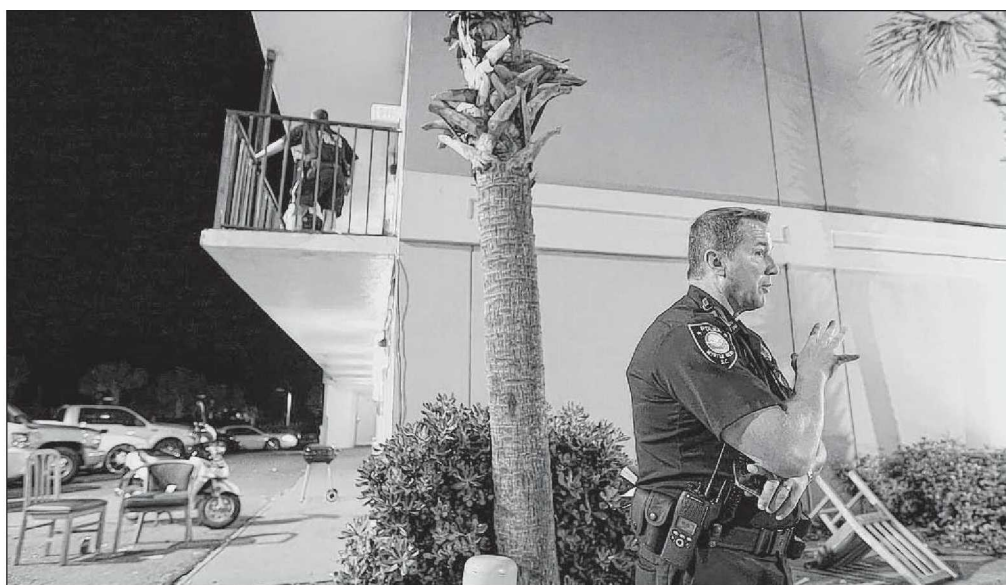
He rejected the idea of crime during the weekend being blamed solely on the festival's black attendees. Crime exists year round in the region, he said, and the majority of attendees are law-abiding citizens.

"I can remember the times when people had serious reasons to be concerned and we still do today," Randolph said. "I guess that's the shocking and astonishing aspect of this. Here we are in 2015 and the treatment of citizens of this state and this nation is not much different than the treatment of citizens throughout the history of this country."

**"We've had instances when facilities have closed their doors when people of color or African Americans came to eat."**

**Lonnie Randolph,  
NAACP's state president**

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FILE/JANET BLACKMON MORGAN/THE SUN NEWS/AP

**Capt. David Knipes of the Myrtle Beach Police talks about the three deaths at Bermuda Sands Resort late on May 24, 2014.**



Title: **Don't drill**

Author:

Size: 10.85 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



## Don't drill

As I read about Nikki Haley's support of exploration of our coastline by oil and gas companies, I wondered: Where is the outrage?

Residents of our seaside towns, working with their local governments, have clearly spoken.

Our natural beauty is one of our greatest assets, much greater than any potential money from offshore oil wells. Even Rep. Mark Sanford, who is certainly no tree hugger, has announced he is not in favor of this risky plan.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has completely ignored all these voices. Why does Gov. Haley allow it?

A cynic would argue that the support from Big Energy is more important to her. After all, "drill, baby, drill" works well on the national stage, and if she runs for national office, she can be assured of victory in South Carolina simply because of her political party. She really has no reason to listen to the people who elected her, except it's the right thing to do.

I have read many letters to the editor about trees on I-26, Obama and Common Core, but not so much about this betrayal by our governor. Again, where is the outrage?

SHEILA SCARBROUGH  
Tidal View Lane  
Charleston

Title: **Surplus no long-term road fix**

Author:

Size: 42.31 square inch

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## Editorials

# *Surplus no long-term road fix*

Voters should see state lawmakers' hedging on an increased gas tax for what it is: weak spines.

They are casting around for a plan — any plan — that would appear to address South Carolina's deteriorating roads while not labeling themselves as tax raisers.

The latest plan is to use a likely \$400 million surplus the state now expects to clear this year. Doing that would allow them to put off substantive solutions for another year.

The irony is that polls have shown that South Carolinians support the idea of a gas tax increase for road maintenance and repair. They understand that adequate roads are necessary for residents driving to work or the grocery store as well as industry shipping goods.

Gov. Nikki Haley is the primary obstacle. She has threatened to veto any road-funding bill that raises the gas tax without cutting the income tax. If enough legislators showed some courage to do the right thing, they could override her veto.

Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, and Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, both have valid reservations about a transportation plan that does not provide a steady stream of revenue. Without being able to rely on that revenue year after year, the DOT cannot plan efficiently which projects to undertake and when to begin them.

And it will mean that the same, tired debates and excuses will be resurrected in the 2016 legislative session.

Further, some legislators recognize that the state has other pressing needs that cannot be funded through the regular operational budget. The surplus could apply to those.

Sen. Grooms named two — the new wom-

en's and children's hospital at the Medical University of South Carolina and an aeronautical training center at Trident Technical College. He is in favor of using half the surplus — \$200 million — for roads and half for capital needs.

"Those are very important projects, not only for the Lowcountry but for the state," he said.

And as S.C. industries require more aeronautical employees, there is no time to waste.

Those are exactly the kinds of projects that the surplus should be used for since it appears that the best option — a bond bill that would produce money at no additional cost to South Carolinians — appears to be on shaky ground.

One critical caveat: Even if some of the surplus is directed to road maintenance, a gas tax increase — in effect, a user fee — is a must.

Otherwise, South Carolina can't finally begin to chisel away at repairing battered roads and building new ones to serve impressive growth in population and industry.

The main reason the roads are in such sorry shape is that the DOT has been underfunded. Forgoing a sustainable road-funding plan would only exacerbate the problems that the agency estimates will require more than \$1 billion a year to fix.

It's a fact that South Carolina might not be able to come up with that much money this year, but the state needs to begin taking giant steps that will move the effort forward substantially.

The present condition of and function of South Carolina's road system is inexcusable.

For legislators to try to pick some low-hanging fruit and call it a day is inexcusable and shortsighted.

Title: **Critics question Haley promoting prayer rally aimed at evangelicals**  
 Author: BY SCHUYLER KROPF skropf@postandcourier.com  
 Size: 56.73 square inch  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# Critics question Haley promoting prayer rally aimed at evangelicals

## Governor to speak in N. Charleston

BY SCHUYLER KROPF  
 skropf@postandcourier.com

Gov. Nikki Haley is set to headline a massive Christian-themed prayer rally at the North Charleston Coliseum next month that supporters say will bring attention to a nation in crisis.

But detractors say the governor's dual role in promoting and speaking at the event pushes her toward the delicate line dividing church and state.

Up to 10,000 people are expected to attend The Response: a call to prayer for our nation, on June 13.

Similar rallies have been hosted previously by two of Haley's closest political allies — Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas.

Both Republicans are part of the 2016 presidential mix and their appearances lent a political veneer — conservatives courting evangelical voters — to gatherings that resembled church services, featuring testimonials, shows of support toward the heavens and contemporary Christian praise music.

Haley agreed to take part in the upcoming event after a group of pastors visited her in Columbia.

She signed on because "faith has always been a source of strength for the governor and her entire family," her press office said, adding that Haley is inviting South Carolinians "of all backgrounds and faiths to join her."

Haley was born and raised in a Sikh family but later converted, joining her Methodist husband.

Critics, though, question the appropriateness of the governor appearing in a Response video promoting an event that, while not billed as exclusive to Christians, targets them and omits references to other beliefs.

The group's web page states this "is the time for Christians to come together to call upon Jesus to guide us through unprecedented struggles, and thank Him for the blessings of freedom we so richly enjoy."

Haley also issued an open invitation to the gathering written on her official governor's office letterhead, not as a private citizen.

"In unity, we will pray for the strength and grace that we can only find when we turn our hearts and minds to the Lord. God bless," it read.

Amy Monsky of the group

Secular Humanists of the Low-country said Haley's involvement amounts to an endorsement, "promoting one religion over another."

"This event of organizing a prayer is not the business for the governor," Monsky said.

Jindal and Perry were similarly criticized for their involvement in the prayer gatherings. Students at Louisiana State University protested the event being held on campus and circulated petitions.

Others who objected included the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

College of Charleston religious studies professor Louise M. Doire said issues surrounding delivery of faith messages can be tricky for politicians, though participation in such an event doesn't necessarily violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

She said Haley's participation in The Response isn't openly "objectionable at face value."

"After all," she continued, "politicians at all levels of government pray and worship in

public spaces and their right to do so is protected under the law."

But having made that point, Doire said that while participants at the Response may pray and call upon God "with one voice, one heart, and a unified desire," as their promotional

material states, "the intention becomes problematic when that one voice, one heart and one desire are projected onto all Americans especially those who are not Christian," she said.

Attendance at the North Charleston event is free of charge but those interested are being asked to first register on the group's website <http://theresponsesc.com/>

**Cynthia Roldan** contributed to this report. Reach **Schuyler Kropf** at 937-5551.



### Poll

Do you think it was appropriate for Gov. Nikki Haley to send invitations to a Christian rally on her official stationery? Go to **postandcourier.com/polls** to vote.



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FILE/AP

**South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley**

Title: **County resident garners honor**  
 Author: By CAROLYN RENNIX crennix@islandpacket.com 843-706-8184  
 Size: 17.36 square inch  
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



# County resident garners honor

Thomas Cameron, who lives on Callawassie Island, is awarded the state's highest civilian honor.

By **CAROLYN RENNIX**

crennix@islandpacket.com  
 843-706-8184

Beaufort County resident Thomas W.L. Cameron has earned the state's highest civilian honor.

The co-founder and retired chairman of Okatie-based investment firm Dividend Assets Capital LLC was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, which is given for "extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national or statewide significance," according to the state's website.

The Callawassie Island resident has served Beaufort County by volunteering and serving on the boards for the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation, Holy Trinity Classical Christian School and

Friends of Caroline Hospice.

His firm's co-founder and CEO, C. Troy Shaver Jr., said Cameron has left a long-standing legacy with the company, which "continues to speak volumes of the growth we see with clients today."

"Tom is such a distinguished professional and has an unmatched caliber of leadership," Shaver said in a news release.

The award was presented by state Rep. Weston Newton, R-Bluffton, on behalf of Gov. Nikki Haley during a reception last week at the Golf House on Spring Island.

Previous award recipients include Gen. William Westmoreland, former state Rep. Harriett Keyserling and best-selling author Pat Conroy.



Cameron

Title: **Lawmaker blasts Swinney or fundraiser**  
 Author: By Cassie Cope ccope@thestate.com  
 Size: 42.00 square inch  
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



# Lawmaker blasts Swinney for fundraiser

## Clemson coach to accept award from conservative group

By CASSIE COPE  
 ccope@thestate.com

**COLUMBIA** Clemson University head football coach Dabo Swinney should not appear at a fundraiser for a South Carolina group that opposes gay marriage, the top Democrat in the S.C. House said Friday.

Swinney is scheduled to appear June 2 at the Columbia event for the Palmetto Family Council, a conservative advocacy group that opposes same-sex marriage and abortion and often allies itself with South Carolina Republicans.

"I find it highly inappropriate that Coach Swinney would appear at a fundraiser for an organization that is so openly discriminatory and politically motivated," state Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Richland, said in a statement. "I cannot fathom why Coach Swinney or anyone else would knowingly assist a group whose mission is to fight against equal rights and equal treatment of others."

Palmetto Family Council President Oran Smith said Swinney will be honored at the event for his Christian testimony, adding there is not a legal, political or any other reason for honoring Swinney.

"Like any other South Carolina citizen, he should be free to speak where he would like to," said Smith, who has led the Palmetto Family Council for 14 years.

Jeff Ayers, of S.C. Equality, said he is disappointed Swinney is accepting an invitation to appear at a fundraiser for an organization that has been outspoken against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

"It's sending the wrong message to the LGBT students and faculty and supporters of Clemson," Ayers said.

At the event, the Palmetto Family Council also will recognize "faithful defenders of religious liberty in South Carolina," at least one of whom is "a prominent Gamecock," according to the organization's Facebook page.

Smith said that statement is referencing Gamecock fan Solicitor General Bob Cook, who co-wrote a legal brief regarding public prayer.

USC athletics director Ray Tanner previously has spoken to the organization, according to a photograph on the Palmetto Family Council's website.

The photo is from an event at which Tanner's foundation was recognized for its work on behalf of economically and medically disadvantaged children in South Carolina,

said USC spokesman Wes Hickman.

Swinney, like Tanner, is a state-paid employee, Rutherford, the House minority leader, noted. "As a state employee, national figure and role model to kids all over the state, coach Swinney should send a message that he has zero tolerance for discrimination and cancel his appearance."

Clemson spokeswoman Robin Denny said Swinney was notified several months ago that he would receive an award from the Palmetto Family Council, based on personal factors, including the work of his foundation. "As far as we can surmise it is not a speaking engagement, merely an acceptance of an award."

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Palmetto Family Council’s Smith helped craft South Carolina’s 2006 gay-marriage ban amendment.

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**Swinney**

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Title: **Republicans coming after programs we've paid into**  
Author:  
Size: 9.76 square inch  
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### **Republicans coming after programs we've paid into**

I notice Gov. Nikki Haley continues to refuse federal funds that would give health care to 194,000 of South Carolina's neediest citizens. So much for compassionate conservatism! She seems to take great pleasure in keeping the poor and working people of our state down with her anti-labor stance. She does this while remaining on the executive board of her union, the Republican Governor's Association. She takes pride in the fact that our state has some of the lowest wages in the country. Maybe she will be happy when we have an "untouchable" class in our state.

The people who vote for her and the other anti-worker and pro-wealthy politicians should beware! These people are coming after our Social Security and Medicare now by calling it "entitlement reform." These are the programs we have paid into all our working lives. We are truly at a crossroads now, and it doesn't look good.

**Wayne H. Daniel**  
*Waterloo*



Title: **Senate president: 'Bring your PJs'**  
 Author: STAFF WRITER TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM  
 Size: 67.27 square inch  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



# Senate president: 'Bring your PJs'

Road-funding measure stalls  
Capital Reserve Fund bill

TIM SMITH

STAFF WRITER

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

**COLUMBIA** — Six legislative working days remain before adjournment, but the Senate has yet to take up a road-funding bill and the Senate's leader said the continued impasse is holding up the budget process.

Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, who also chairs the Senate Finance Committee, said debate over roads has stalled a Capital Reserve Fund bill and the House cannot respond to the Senate's budget until that is passed.

There were no votes concerning roads or the Capital Reserve Fund Thursday before the Legislature ad-



Hugh Leatherman

journer for the week, but plenty of debate over everything from how to govern the state Department of Transportation to the fairness of the state's income tax.

Leatherman told the Senate just before senators left for the week to "bring your pajamas" Tuesday when the Senate returns because he wants the Capital Reserve Fund bill passed.

Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican, spent a second day holding the podium on a proposal to spend half of \$84 million in the state's Capital Reserve Fund on county transportation committees instead of on higher education deferred maintenance projects.

He disclosed that a Senate-passed bill on surplus revenue could send almost \$400 million to county transportation

committees for road maintenance instead of \$137 million as he first thought.

But House members may hesitate to approve that much for roads now that the surplus estimate has grown, Davis told the Senate.

He said some House members may want to spend some of that on other projects.

"It's like they have stars in their eyes," he said.

Rep. Brian White of Anderson, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the Board of Economic Advisors is expected next week to certify a "significant amount" of additional reve-

**See SENATE, Page 4A**

## Senate

Continued from Page 1A

nue.

White said he will introduce a bill to give lawmakers a chance to debate how to spend the surplus rather than having negotiators from the House and Senate do it.

House Majority Leader

Bruce Bannister of Greenville told *The Greenville News* there have been rumors of an increase in revenue estimates but he has not seen any numbers. He said House members may want to look at a variety of ways the surplus can be spent, not

just roads.

"My folks would be looking at it saying before you send it all to the CTCs, let's at least consider the other options," Bannister said. He said those options could include more income tax relief, workforce development

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projects and deferred maintenance,

Rep. Gary Simrill, a Rock Hill Republican who chaired a panel that produced a House road-funding plan, told *The News* he doesn't think House members will hesitate to fund roads with the surplus money but may disagree that all of the money should be spent on local road maintenance.

"I don't think the House will have any problems spending the lion's share of the money on infrastructure," he said. "I think to put all of that on one component of infrastructure is short-sighted."

Simrill also said he thinks the House plan is far more comprehensive in spending and structural reforms than what is being proposed in the Senate. The House plan, he noted, would offer counties increased road funding if they take some of the state's roads in their jurisdiction.

On Wednesday, Davis estimated that the Senate's surplus bill would provide \$137 million for roads. Thursday, he said an update by state economists could mean as much as \$370 million is available for roads.

Some senators argued that the higher education projects

should not be removed from the Capital Reserve Fund because of severe cuts colleges and universities have received in state funding in recent years.

Davis said he is not saying universities don't have needs but he thinks the state's infrastructure needs are more critical.

He and other conservative senators want lawmakers to use existing and new revenues for road and bridge repairs rather than raising the state's gas tax and increasing fees.

A move to sit Davis down Wednesday afternoon failed and no such motions emerged Thursday.

He said an estimate by state economists projects an average increase in state revenues of \$335 million a year for the next decade. Using one third of that, Davis argues, could allow legislators to eventually reach the level of additional funding that Gov. Nikki Haley says is needed for basic road repairs.

Davis also wants the governor to choose highway commissioners, to eliminate the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and to send local roads now in the state's inventory to local governments, along with necessary funding to maintain them or the ability to raise

funds for their care.

He argued Thursday that lawmakers should spend more of their efforts looking at how road money is spent and less on where the money will come from.

"The more important debate is how to spend money more efficiently," he said.

Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Camden Democrat, told Davis that the Senate is split around three plans — a plan passed by the Senate Finance Committee, which raises about \$800 million through increases in the gas tax and fees but contains no tax relief nor reform to the highway commission; a plan by the GOP Senate Caucus that would raise more than \$700 million though raising the gas tax and fees, offers an income tax cut and gives the governor the authority to appoint highway commissioners; and Davis' plan.

Sheheen said if the choice for senators comes down to Davis plan or the GOP plan, he prefers Davis' plan because it does not include tax relief, which he said would benefit more wealthy residents of the state.

Sheheen said although he has problems with the Senate Finance Committee plan, he prefers that most.

Title: **DHEC director has tasks ahead**  
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# DHEC director has tasks ahead

SAMMY FRETWELL

THE STATE

**COLUMBIA** — Former Duke Energy executive Catherine Heigel has plenty to do when she becomes director at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Heigel, a lawyer and Greenville resident, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate in the next two weeks, will take control of an agency that has been leaderless — and some say adrift — for most of this year.

The department, one of the state's largest with 3,417 employees, is beset with morale problems and has been unable this spring to answer basic public health questions, state senators said Thursday. In the past four years, the agency also has lost key personnel.

Couple that with long-standing questions about the agency's environmental protection efforts and senators said Heigel has a big task ahead.

But they said she is more than capable. Heigel won enthusiastic support Thursday from a Senate screening panel that includes some of DHEC's toughest critics.

"When you have an agency that does not have a director in charge, you have a tendency for morale to be down and things to

start to get out of whack,"

Sen. Floyd Nicholson, D-Greenwood, said. Heigel "has to just come in there and get the team back together and show she's concerned about the welfare of the citizens of the state."

Heigel, a daughter of Darlington County educators, said she realizes running DHEC is a big job. Among her first tasks will be to learn from employees and others knowledgeable about the agency and hiring senior level staff, she said. She said she will try to make the agency more transparent and efficient.

"My objectives are to engage in a substantial listening tour for the first 100 days, to meet with interested stakeholders internally and externally," she said.

Many high-level — and seasoned — employees have left the agency since Catherine Templeton took the director's job in 2012. Among those were the agency's longtime chief of staff Doug Calvert, and health chief Lisa Waddell, a respected doctor who was replaced by Gov. Nikki Haley's budget and policy director.

Within her first year, Templeton had laid off more than 50

employees. This year, some members of Templeton's hand-picked upper-level management team have left since Templeton quit in January, saying she had put in enough time.

Heigel, 44, said she needs to "build the team," and work with the DHEC board to set the agency's vision.

"I'm going to be very internally focused for a while because I've got a lot to learn," she said after Thursday's hearing.

Heigel would earn \$154,879 annually. She won the DHEC board's nomination last month after beating out a field of about 100. She would run the agency that regulates everything from hospital expansions to tattoo parlors to air quality. It also issues environmental permits to industry.

Senators said she's a good choice — and needed. Some said Thursday that DHEC's failure to explain how it came up with the details of a plan to change a state hospital certificate of need law is an example of the department's shortcomings.

It took less than an hour for

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## Director

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the screening committee to approve Heigel.

A 1992 University of South Carolina graduate, Heigel has a law degree from Ohio State University. She has worked at the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs, in private legal practice and with Duke Energy.

She served as South Carolina president at Duke from 2010-2012. Heigel worked on an array of

issues, including development of new nuclear plants in Cherokee County and relicensing work on dams.

Heigel said she has no financial interests in any power company that would cause a conflict in her role as DHEC director. She said she will resign her current position

as a Santee Cooper power company board member.

She said she would recuse herself from any matters at DHEC that would appear to be a conflict. The department regulates Duke Energy and Santee Cooper, which need environmental permits to provide power.

Heigel's screening hearing Thursday was in sharp contrast to the lengthy and contentious meeting last winter that led the DHEC board's pre-

vious pick for the director's job to withdraw. An uproar ensued over Eleanor Kitzman's qualifications and her friendship with Haley, who urged the DHEC board to choose Kitzman.

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Unlike Kitzman, Heigel has extensive experience in environmental regulation and conservation matters. Not only did she work for more than a decade at Duke Energy,

but she served on the Nature Conservancy board.

Democratic Sens. Joel Lourie and Darrell Jackson, both of Columbia, said they're confident she's up to the job. Both have been critical of DHEC in recent years. Jackson said he's particularly concerned about low morale that he said appears to have affected the agency under Templeton, a lawyer praised for shaking up a lethargic agency but criticized for abruptly forcing people to quit.

Jackson said he had initial concerns about a possible conflict of interest involving Heigel's ties to the power industry. But he said those worries were eased after he met with her. Both he and Lourie said they believe Heigel will provide an independent voice at DHEC, standing up to Haley and her hand-chosen DHEC board.