

Title: **South Carolina has deadliest roads in nation**

Author:

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South Carolina has deadliest roads in nation

A statement by a high ranking official within the S.C. Department of Transportation is chilling.

A recent article in *The State* newspaper cited state engineer Ron Fallaw as saying it's more dangerous to drive on South Carolina roads than it is to be in a war zone.

"It would be safer for me to send my kids to war at the peak of conflict" than to drive on South Carolina roads, Fallaw said.

Nearly 1,000 people died on the state's highways in 2016. In comparison, 961 soldiers died in 2007 in fighting in Afghanistan.

DOT chief Christy Hall, testifying before a commission that oversees the state's department of highways, went further.

"Our roads are the deadliest in the nation by far," said Hall.

These grim statements provide ammunition to state legislators who are pushing for a gasoline tax increase to help improve the state's highway infrastructure.

The House GOP recently introduced legislation that raises the state's 16.75-cents-a-gallon gas tax by 10 cents per gallon over the next five years.

Supporters of the bill say a tax

increase will generate about \$600 million annually.

Former S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley blocked past attempts to raise the gasoline tax.

Now that she is

the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, a much better opportunity exists to get a gasoline tax increase passed.

Although billions of dollars are needed to build new roads and bridges, the S.C. General Assembly

must take better care of existing roads. Safe roads should be paramount in the thinking of legislators and transportation department leaders.

DOT Chairman Hall told the commission that it will take \$50 million annually to upgrade sections of the state's highway system where a high proportion of road deaths occur.

Some of the proposed improvements to make roads safer include installing updated guard rails and rumble strips, which give drivers an audible warning that they are drifting off of the road.

However, it will take \$943 million a year to make all of the state's crumbling roads safer, said Hall.

I've never seen a tax increase that I liked. Nevertheless, South Carolinians

must accept higher prices at the pump to pay for desperately needed road improvements.

How bad are South Carolina's roads?

Just drive across the border into

North Carolina to see the difference.

Motorists in that state pay about 20 cents more per gallon than those in the Palmetto state. The quality of North Carolina roads demonstrates the disparity between the highway systems of the two states.

While I support an increase in gasoline taxes, important changes in how the revenue it generate is allocated are necessary, too.

For far too long, Columbia, Charleston and Greenville have gotten the lion's share of money for new roads.

Horry County sends far more gasoline money to the state capital than it receives. As a result, we've been forced to pay a penny sales tax to pay for highway improvements and infrastructure here.

A new funding mechanism should be put in place that assures counties like ours get a fair share of any new highway taxes.

Meanwhile, fear for your life if you drive on South Carolina roads!



**PUBLISHER'S
NOTEBOOK**

**Steve
Robertson**

Title: **Haleysworn inas U.S. ambassador to theU.N.**
 Author:
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FORMER GOVERNOR

Haley sworn in as U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Wire reports

WASHINGTON

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was sworn in Wednesday morning to be President Donald Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

Vice President Mike Pence swore in Haley in the Eisenhower Executive Office building on the White House complex in Washington.

Holding the bible for Haley's oath of office was the former governor's staff member Rebecca Schimsa.

The Senate voted 96-4 Tuesday night in favor of Haley's nomination despite her lack of significant foreign policy experience. The four senators who voted no were

Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Christopher Coons, D-Del., Tom Udall, D-N.M., and Martin Heinrich, D-N.M.

She won praise from Democrats during her confirmation

hearing last week, where she freely aired disagreements with Trump on some policy matters and said that the new president would welcome a range of views.

Haley, who had been critical of Trump as a candidate, voiced heavy skepticism about Russia and optimism about NATO, both deviations from some of Trump's statements. She unequivocally rejected the idea of a Muslim registry or ban, which Trump has never fully disavowed.

She said she is comfortable with Trump's "American first" approach and would reassert the traditional role of the United States in recent decades of protecting Israel from United Nations action it considers biased.

The South Carolina-born daughter of Indian immigrants also declared her support for moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Haley resigned as South Carolina's governor moments after the Senate vote. She was succeeded by Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster.

The Washington Post contributed



Haley

Title: **Bryant becomes lt. gov. after Senate vote**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 61.53 column inches
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Bryant becomes lt. gov. after Senate vote

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson became the state's lieutenant governor Wednesday, and Sen. Hugh Leatherman was re-elected to the Senate's most powerful job over Sen. Harvey Peeler when the dust finally settled in the Statehouse's latest version of musical chairs.

The move rankled some senators who disapproved of Leatherman's temporarily vacating the Senate president pro tempore position to avoid having to assume the lieutenant governorship, which would have been a step down on the Senate hierarchy.

Senators Tom Davis and Chip Camp-

son said they supported Bryant but abstained from voting for him "to make clear our unwillingness to participate in an arranged procedure that allows the immediately previous Senate President

Pro Tempore, Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., to enjoy the powers and rights inherent in that office, yet avoid the discharge of the essential constitutional duty that goes along with enjoying those rights and powers."

The Senate approved Bryant, in his 12th year as a senator, to become Senate president pro tempore on a voice vote, and he immediately became lieutenant governor in the order of succession because of the job being left vacant when former Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster became governor late Tuesday. McMaster was sworn in following Gov. Nikki Haley's resignation to become U.N. ambassador.

Bryant was unopposed for the job and thanked and praised each senator in his acceptance speech.

"It is with the greatest humility that I leave this body and take on a new role," he said. "I want to thank the people of Anderson County for the opportunity to serve you 12 years in the South Carolina Senate.

It's been an honor to promote your liberty and protect your wallet.

"I want to thank South Carolina for the opportunity to serve you as the next lieutenant governor. You will get the same commitment promoting your liberty and protecting your wallet."

Leatherman's temporary resignation Tuesday as president pro tempore drew criticism Wednesday from Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, who nominated Peeler to be president pro tem.

Massey told the Senate that "rules matter" and whoever occupies the position of pro tem has only one job under the state Constitution and that is to become lieutenant governor should a vacancy occur. While that is the only duty spelled out in the Constitution, the pro tem has a host of duties not in the constitution, including appointment powers to various committees, boards and commissions.

See BRYANT, Page 5A

Bryant

Continued from Page 1A

Massey said he was not criticizing Leatherman as much as asking senators to determine that whoever holds the pro tem office should be willing to follow their oath of office by becoming lieutenant governor.

"If you took the oath, dadgum it, you ought to do it," he said. "Why would we, the rest of us who are called senators, sanction efforts to disregard that constitutional obligation?"

Massey showed the Senate an invitation to a reception honoring Leatherman listing all of his positions, which include the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Then he showed a video clip of a speech by former president pro tem Glenn McConnell when he agreed to become lieutenant governor, saying "oaths of office matter."

"It's not OK to disregard the rules just because they are inconvenient," Massey said.

But Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Luke Rankin, who nominated Leatherman, argued there was nothing

compulsory about becoming lieutenant governor and that it took "courage" on Leatherman's part to resign "and pass the baton to someone who wants the position."

Rankin, an Horry County Republican, said the Senate was on notice when Leatherman took the job that he would never become lieutenant governor, a largely ceremonial post whose duties are to preside over the Senate and to oversee the Office on Aging.

"Senator Leatherman, if anything, is a fair man," Rankin said. "And the Senate and this state have prospered by his leadership."

The Senate voted 28-16 to re-elect Leatherman, with Sen. Greg Gregory, a Lancaster Republican, abstaining. Leatherman collected the votes of Democrats, while Peeler collected many conservatives and Upstate Republicans.

Two of those Upstate Republicans, Sen. William Timmons of Greenville and Sen. Rex Rice of Easley, voted against Leatherman over the lieutenant governor issue after Leatherman sent a letter

notifying the Senate he would not become lieutenant governor if McMaster became governor.

Leatherman won the post that time by a 38-9 vote.

Wednesday, Leatherman thanked those who voted for him and said of those who didn't, "I understand you have your reasons."

Bryant, a Republican who has been in the Senate since 2005, also chaired the Senate General Committee.

He said in December he wanted to become lieutenant governor because he enjoyed working with seniors and the statewide opportunity to talk conservatism.

Sen. John Scott, a Columbia Democrat, had voiced an interest in running for the job but decided not to, he said, after seeing that he could not win because of the Republican majority.

When former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard resigned in 2012 after his indictment on state ethics charges, McConnell, who also chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, became lieutenant governor.



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Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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He served until he took a job as president of the College of Charleston in 2014. Then Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson of Columbia resigned not wanting the lieutenant governor's job for six months, and Sen. Yancey McGill of Williamsburg County took his place, serving as lieutenant governor until McMaster won the job in the 2014 election. In South Carolina's history, 10 lieutenant governors, now including McMaster, have become governors either upon the resignation or death of the governor or by succeeding the governor, according to the state's legislative manual. Beginning in the 2018 election, the governor and lieutenant governor will be elected on the same ticket, after voters approved a change in the state Constitution allowing it.



Kevin Bryant

Title: **DDSN bill gets first airing**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 63.08 column inches
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DDSN bill gets first airing

TIM SMITH

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COLUMBIA - Critics of the state's disabilities agency urged senators Wednesday to move it under the governor's control, labeling the department as broken, corrupt and in need of accountability.

But supporters of the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs said they believe the current system works well, with one arguing the agency cannot be blamed for the actions of its employees.

Senators listened to some of the 14 people who had signed up to talk but took no action on a bill that would place the agency in the governor's cabinet.

Sen. Paul Campbell, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee, said the panel would listen to

more testimony at its next meeting, expected to be in about two weeks.

Campbell called the bill by Sen. John Scott of Columbia "very important" and was pleased to be hearing from people in favor and opposed to the legislation.

The idea of placing DDSN under the direct control of the governor has been backed by former Gov. Nikki Haley, Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey and Senate Medical Affairs Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler.

"I would love to see DDSN become a cabinet agency," Haley said earlier this month. "I think that is extremely important because that is the only way you can truly get to the heart of the issue and try to solve it."

The agency currently is governed **See DDSN, Page 5A**

by a commission, which is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The commission hires the executive director. The bill would make the board an advisory commission.

Management of the agency, which oversees the care of tens of thousands of South Carolinians with intellectual disabilities, autism, brain or spinal injuries, has long been a political issue as governors have attempted to grapple with problems at DDSN. Former Gov. Mark Sanford in 2009 asked the majority of DDSN commissioners to resign following a critical audit of the agency by the Legislature's watchdog agency. Former Sen. David Thomas of Green-

DDSN

Continued from Page 1A

ville once called DDSN "the worst-run agency in the state."

Interest in the past year has been renewed following articles in *The Greenville News* detailing allegations of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, audits of local disabilities boards detailing financial problems in some counties, problems with a private provider that has prompted DDSN to freeze admissions three times, a lack of participation in medi-

cations training by DDSN providers and delays in addressing recommendations in years-old audits by the Legislative Audit Council.

Deborah McPherson, a former DDSN commissioner and advocate for the intellectually disabled, said she supports the bill after watching the agency for many years.

She said lives are in jeopardy because of the actions or inactions by the agency.

"DDSN's administration has not held all of its providers/employees accountable and/or to the same standards, which has resulted in the loss of lives and the abuse of our most vulnerable citizens," she said in a statement handed each senator. "In response, the administration of this agency has chosen to spend the state taxpayer's dollars for legal expenses defending its actions by dragging individuals with disabilities and their families through



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litigation for years while refusing to provide the in-home services so desperately needed to avoid institutionalization.”

Attorney Patricia Logan Harrison, an advocate for the disabled who has sued the agency on behalf of clients, said while she thinks the bill needs a lot of work, she thinks the agency is “broken and corrupt.”

Services have been unnecessarily cut to families, she alleged, while federal audits have found problems in the way the agency has spent its money.

She said those who have especially been hurt are recipients under the Medicaid waiver program that allow people to receive services at home or in the community.

“This has been a disaster for struggling families who want to keep a family member at home,” she told senators.

She said the state has not had a waiver application approved by the federal government since 2015 because of problems.

Carolyn O’Connell, who once served

on the board of the Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs agency, now called Thrive Upstate, said she believes more accountability is needed on all levels of the DDSN system.

But some who spoke disagreed, including two women who have previously opposed moving the agency under the governor.

Kathleen Roberts, who serves on the board of the Whitten Center, a DDSN residential treatment center in Clinton for those with developmental disabilities, said she feels like the agency is being unfairly blamed.

“To hold the agency responsible for stupid or neglectful employees is inappropriate,” she said.

She said the agency is a national leader in providing services and praised DDSN Director Beverley Buscemi’s leadership and compassion.

“I think there is a lot of sour grapes out there,” she said.

Amy Davenport, whose disabled daughter was severely injured in a 2004 accident caused by a drunk re-

spite worker who came to the family via a local disabilities agency, said she supports the bill because more accountability is needed.

She and McPherson said some families fear reprisals and are scared to speak out. She said she hopes more will come forward.

Buscemi attended the hearing but did not get a chance to speak before the hearing was ended.

Scott said afterward the testimony is “pointing at bad administration.”

“The board as it stands now is not a strong enough board to get the administration back to where it needs to be,” he said.

DDSN Chairman Bill Danielson said last year when asked about Scott’s bill that the agency would work with whatever model lawmakers decided best.

“There are benefits to both the cabinet model and the commission model,” he said. “In either model, both the governor and the Legislature are involved in deciding the leadership.”

Title: **Focus on DOT reform first**

Author:

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Focus on DOT reform first


**EDITOR'S
JOURNAL**

Charles D.
Perry

State lawmakers seemed optimistic earlier this month when they talked with the media about the possibility of raising the gas tax to pay for road improvements.

After being unable to pass legislation on that front last year, they feel their chances will be better once Gov. Nikki Haley becomes Donald Trump's United Nations ambassador and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster moves into the governor's office.

I don't have a problem paying more at the pump if it means repairing the state's crumbling infrastructure, but I tend to agree with state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, on this issue: "Not a single penny more to the DOT until we get real reform and real accountability."

In South Carolina, road building and road repair are, sadly, political exercises.

There's a reason why Horry County residents will soon pay a special 1 percent sales tax for highway projects. RIDE III exists because the state never allocates enough for our critical road needs.

To be fair, there isn't enough money to pay for all of the state's road projects, but that means the most important ones must be addressed with the limited resources available.

The main criticism of SCDOT is that its leaders often ignore key maintenance needs in favor of pet projects supported by the lawmakers who put them on the board.

Last year, state officials tried to address this issue by allowing the governor to appoint the entire DOT commission.

The governor had traditionally appointed one of the eight commissioners with the other seven being chosen by lawmakers from each of the state's congressional districts.

The problem with last year's "reform" was that it didn't remove state lawmakers from the approval process. They can still reject the governor's appointments and the political posturing can continue.

Davis correctly pointed out that what state leaders did last year was phony reform.

"We always settle for something less," he said. "If we're going to do right by the people of South Carolina, let's do the hard thing."

The senator is correct. The legislature should not dictate how the DOT money is spent. Projects should be prioritized based on need — not political interests — and the entire management structure must be overhauled.

Some lawmakers think both problems (funding and reform) can be addressed in one piece of legislation. Others support dealing with reform first, then looking at the gas tax.

I fall in the latter camp. The state's budget for roads and bridges has continued to grow in recent years. Before state lawmakers pour more money into the DOT, they need to make sure the agency runs efficiently.

Title: **Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's new lieutenant governor?**
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com
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 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



GOVERNMENT

Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's new lieutenant governor?

BY AVERY G. WILKS
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COLUMBIA

Kevin Bryant — a founding member of the state Senate's libertarian "William Wallace Caucus," known for his unflinching support of pro-life legislation, school choice, traditional marriage and limited government — is now only a heartbeat away from becoming S.C. governor.

S.C. senators elevated the 49-year-old Anderson Republican on Wednesday to be South Carolina's lieutenant governor.

Senate Pro Tempore Hugh

Leatherman, R-Florence, paved the way for Bryant's election Tuesday, resigning his post to avoid becoming lieutenant governor. That post has little power, aside from being first in line to succeed the governor, if neces-

sary. It pays \$46,545 a year.

THE WILLIAM WALLACE CAUCUS

Since 2005, Bryant — a deeply religious Anderson pharmacist and small-business owner — has been one of the most conservative members in the GOP-majority Senate.

Bryant helped found the Senate's William Wallace Caucus, a group of back-bench Repub-

licans whose proposals and obstructionist tactics have sometimes frustrated both Democrats and mainstream Republicans.

Bryant fought the Affordable Care Act and Common Core, pushed back against proposed tax increases or borrowing plans, and blasted state agencies and public

colleges for what he deemed to be wasteful spending.

"He's not a pragmatic politician," said state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, another member of the William Wallace Caucus, named for the 13th century Scot — of "Braveheart" fame — who fought for Scottish independence but was executed by the English. "He's not an art-of-the-possible type guy. He has an idea of right and wrong, and he's not going to waver."

The proposals that Bryant has authored or backed over the past few years include:

- A bathroom bill last year that would have prevented transgender men or women from using the bathrooms of

SEE BRYANT, 2C

FROM PAGE 1C

BRYANT

their choice. The proposal failed after Republican S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley objected, calling it unnecessary. State economic-development officials also opposed the proposal, noting the negative impact a similar N.C. bill had on jobs in that state.

- Proposals last year to bar state agencies from accepting — or helping others to resettle — refugees in the state until new security measures are

enacted, and require the tracking of refugees entering South Carolina. Both failed.

- A failed push in 2014 to require the state to directly acknowledge a religious creator while making the Columbian mammoth the official state fossil

- An unsuccessful 2012 bill to allow anyone to carry a gun, concealed or not, anywhere but in private homes and busi-

nesses that specifically ban them

- An unsuccessful 2012 bill to require the jobless to pass a drug test before receiving unemployment benefits.

Bryant says one of his proudest accomplishments was pushing through a 2006 bill that extended the death penalty to include child rapists.

Bryant said this week he believes God led him to the state Senate and, now,

to become lieutenant governor.

"I will have a platform to preach conservatism across the state," Bryant said.

'A MAN OF HIS WORD'

Senators on both sides of the aisle admit to differences — large and small — with Bryant's politics. But Bryant has earned universal praise for his principled, straightforward approach to policy making.

Title: **Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's new lieutenant governor?**
 Author: BY AVERYG.WILKS awilks@thestate.com
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Lawmakers say Bryant is upfront and personable. He tells colleagues where he stands on their proposals and what he plans to do, an approach he says helps to iron out potential problems in legislation.

"There's no surprises with Kevin Bryant," said state Sen. John Courson, R-Richland.

That approach, plus a reverence for Senate rules, qualify Bryant to be the chamber's presiding officer, a role of the lieutenant governor, legislators say. Last week, Bryant practiced chairing the state Senate. In the vacant Senate chamber, he pretended to call on senators and move through busi-

ness with the Senate clerk.

"I've always found him to be a man of his word, thoughtful, conscientious," said state Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. "We don't always agree on the policies that are proposed, but he's always been a gentlemen."

Former state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, refers to Bryant as "my brother from a right-wing mother." Lourie said he admired Bryant's 2015 vote to remove the Confederate flag from the State House dome after the Emanuel 9 massacre.

"He got a lot of grief," Lourie said. "People were protesting in front of his drug store, and he didn't

waver a bit."

But Bryant, a former Anderson County GOP chairman, seldom strays from the conservatism that makes him popular among Upstate voters.

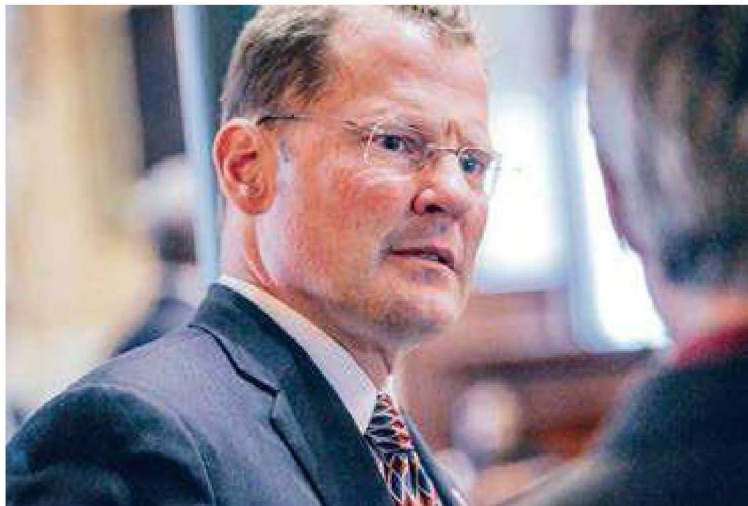
Davis says he will miss Bryant's help in fighting a proposal to increase the state's gas tax to pay to repair the South Carolina's crumbling roads. As Davis has filibustered similar proposals in years' past, Bryant would pepper him with sympathetic questions to pass the time.

"You can only speak for so long before you start to go crazy," Davis said. "He was always somebody who would stand up, and go back and forth with me."

Avery G. Wilks:
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Kevin Bryant biography

- **Age:** 49
- **Occupation:** Pharmacist and president of Bryant Pharmacy and Supply
- **Education:** Bachelor of science degree, University of Georgia
- **Personal:** Married, Ann; three children
- **Political:** Served in state Senate since 2005; former chairman, Anderson County GOP, 1997-2001; delegate, Republican National Convention, 2000



TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@thestate.com

Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, talks in Senate chambers.

Title: **Chamber seeks sales tax on gas**
 Author: RON BARNETT RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
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 Simpsonville, SC Circulation: 38725



Chamber seeks sales tax on gas

RON BARNETT

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The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce is urging lawmakers to do away with the sales tax exemption on gasoline and eliminate the sales tax cap on automobile purchases in order to generate money to fix the state's deteriorating roads.

That's one of the three key thrusts of the Chamber's legislative agenda for this year, along with improved workforce development and streamlining of business licenses for small businesses.

As the state faces the prospect of a new governor and the nation a new president, the South Carolina business community is generally optimistic about the future, Ted Pitts, president and CEO of the state Chamber told *The Greenville News*. But the Legislature's failure to do something about the transportation system remains a black mark on the the state's otherwise positive reputation in the business world, he said.

Not only are companies who look at South Carolina as a possible location for new facilities beginning to balk over the condition of the roads, existing businesses are seeing higher costs because of the worsening highway system, he said.

"It's costing them money. They're

having to reroute traffic around load-restricted bridges," he said. "They're having more damage to their product and their vehicles as they travel around. And it's a safety issue."

"We believe that once and for all the General Assembly needs to find that dedicated revenue stream for infrastructure to get us where we need to be."

The Legislature last year stalled on plans to increase the gas tax but passed a bill that could mean almost \$4 billion more for South Carolina roads over the next decade, primarily through bonds. The state's leaders said then they would tackle the issue of how to provide a more sustainable revenue source for roads and bridges this year.

A new House proposal would raise the tax by 2 cents per year over five years, while a Senate plan would increase it by 4 cents over three years.

But two potential obstacles remain to any increase. Some senators say they want to see more reform in governance at the state Department of Transportation passed first.

Last year, lawmakers gave the governor the authority to appoint all highway commissioners with the advice, consent and screening of legislators.

But many legislators believe that's not enough.

Pitts said the state Chamber isn't opposed to further reforming DOT but believes action on funding needs to be taken whether the agency is revamped or not.

"Those that say we aren't going to give it any more, in our minds would be not trying to address the real problem," Pitts said. "I think if you asked every member of the General Assembly, they would tell you that DOT does not have adequate resources to maintain our system."

Gov. Nikki Haley has insisted that any gas tax increase must be accompanied by a tax cut somewhere else. But with her imminent departure to become ambassador to the United Nations, she won't be a factor in the upcoming debate.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster hasn't made his position known on the issue, but Pitts said the state's business community is "very comfortable" with McMaster becoming governor after Haley leaves.

Phasing any increase in taxes on gasoline over three to five years would be "prudent and responsible," he said. South Carolina's gas tax, among the lowest in the nation, hasn't been raised since 1987.

Title: **McMaster is sworn in as new S.C. governor**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 45.57 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



McMaster is sworn in as new S.C. governor

BY JAMIE SELF
 jself@thestate.com

Exit Gov. Nikki Haley.
 Enter Gov. Henry McMaster.

South Carolina's lieutenant governor became its governor Tuesday, within an hour of Haley being confirmed as U.S. ambassador

FROM PAGE 3A

MCMMASTER

"Great prosperity, success and happiness will be ours, and we will serve as a beacon of inspiration for others," McMaster added, not taking questions from reporters.

A Columbia Republican elected lieutenant governor in 2014, McMaster took the oath of office Tuesday despite not being required to do so. Under the state Constitution, the lieutenant governor automatically becomes governor when a vacancy occurs in the state's highest office. McMaster said little Tuesday about his plans as governor.

The leaders of state agencies that form the governor's Cabinet — all appointed by fellow Republican Haley — are staying on board in the new administration, McMaster's office confirmed Tuesday. That in-

cludes Commerce Department Secretary Bobby Hitt, credited, with Haley, with attracting thousands of new jobs to the state.

Also, McMaster and wife Peggy plan to move into the Governor's Mansion as soon as possible. The pair live in a home on Senate Street, near the University of South Carolina campus.

S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore congratulated Haley and McMaster.

Haley "has led our state through so many difficult days with grace and humility," Moore said, crediting Haley with improving the state's economy. "We will miss Gov. Haley's strong, principled leadership, but we'll also miss her compassion, kindness and love for our state."

"Gov. McMaster is a life-

long Republican, former state GOP chairman and true public servant who loves South Carolina with all of his heart. I know he will continue our state's legacy of great Republican governors," Moore said.

McMaster's tenure in the governor's office could prove historic.

The former two-term state attorney general will finish the final two years of Haley's term and is expected to run for the office in 2018. If McMaster wins two consecutive terms, he could serve almost 10 years, making him the state's longest serving governor.

HALEY OFF TO NEW JOB

Haley's new job will move her to New York City where she will get a pay raise to \$187,000 a year, up from her \$106,078-a-year salary

deeply appreciative of being granted one of the rarest opportunities to serve the people of my state, my home and that of my forefathers.

SEE MCMMASTER, 10A

as governor. She also will get an apartment in Manhattan at the swanky Waldorf Astoria hotel, which houses the official residence of the U.S. ambassador.

Her six years as governor were marked by a sometimes combative relationship with members of the GOP-controlled Legislature, giving legislators letter grades and calling them out publicly for not voting for her agenda.

But Haley also leaves the governor's office with a national reputation, credited for her leadership in removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds after the racially motivated slaying of nine African-American Charleston churchgoers

Cassie Cope contributed.

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Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is sworn in as governor on Tuesday after Nikki Haley was confirmed as the U.N. ambassador.

Title: **IndianLand mortgage firm announces expansion, with hundreds of new jobs**
 Author: BY MICHAEL HARRISON mharrison@fortmilltimes.com
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Indian Land mortgage firm announces expansion, with hundreds of new jobs

BY MICHAEL HARRISON
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INDIAN LAND

Movement Mortgage is expanding its corporate headquarters in Bailes Ridge Corporate Park on S.C. 160 East with an \$18 million investment expected to create more than 700 jobs, the company announced Tuesday.

The jobs will be added over the next five years, according to a company release.

"This hiring and expansion is going to help drive our business forward as we continue to lead a 'movement of change' in the mortgage industry, corporate culture and our communities," Movement Mortgage CEO and co-founder Casey Crawford said in the release.

Crawford and outgoing Gov. Nikki Haley praised each other over the move – Haley for continuing to invest in the state, and Crawford for Haley helping to create "a business-friendly" environment that invites investment.

"Movement Mortgage



JASON E. MICZEK WWW.MICZEKPHOTO.COM

Movement Mortgage in Indian Land plans an \$18 million expansion, creating more than 700 jobs.

has been an incredible partner to our state since its doors opened in Lancaster County two years ago," Haley said.

"This \$18 million investment, and the 700 jobs it means for Lancaster (County), shows that Movement Mortgage is committed to our state and its people, and we couldn't be more excited to see this fantastic company continue to grow and thrive here for a very long time," Haley said.

Founded in 2008, Movement Mortgage has grown from four employ-

ees to more than 4,100 in 48 states, including more than 650 at the Indian Land facility.

The company, named in one survey a year ago as the best place to work in the Carolinas in part for the amenities it offers its workforce, will receive job credits to help offset the cost of its investment, the release states.

Lancaster County Council Chairman Steve Harper lauded the company's rapid growth.

"Lancaster County is very excited that Movement Mortgage will ex-

pand its headquarters in Indian Land," he said.

"In just over a year, they have become one of the county's leading corporate facility operations and have exceeded their initial projection for jobs and investment.

"The county council thanks Movement Mortgage for their new commitment to our community, as well as the state and county economic development team that worked with them to get it done."

The new jobs might be coming at an opportune time.

While figures show unemployment falling to near historic low levels, the jobless rate ticked up slightly in December in York, Lancaster and Chester counties.

Hiring for the new positions is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2017. Interested applicants should visit the company's careers page online at movement.com/careers.

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SC native Colbert to host television's Emmy Awards

CBS announced South Carolina native son Stephen Colbert will host the 69th annual Emmy Awards telecast.

The annual awards honoring television will air on Sept. 17.

Colbert hosts the "Late Show" on CBS and previously hosted Comedy Central's "Colbert Report" and appeared on "The Daily Show."

Colbert, who grew up in Charleston, has made several mentions of his South Carolina roots on his shows.



Colbert

During his time on the "Colbert Report," he was featured training at Fort Jackson, had Gov. Nikki Haley appear on the show and attempted to put himself on the S.C. primary ballot as a candidate for "president of South Carolina."

Colbert also submitted a guest column to The State in 2011.

His sister Elizabeth Colbert Busch lost a 2013 bid for the S.C. 1st District seat in Congress to Mark Sanford.

His father, Dr. James W. Colbert Jr., was vice president of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston from 1969 until his death. He died in



THESTATE.COM: Academy Awards nominations were announced Tuesday. Find the full list online.

a Sept. 11, 1974, plane crash in Charlotte, along with two of his sons.

When asked about hosting the Emmys, the Associated Press reported Colbert made a sly reference to President Donald Trump administration's unprovable assertion that Trump's inauguration was the most watched ever.

"This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period," Colbert said. "Both in person and around the globe."

— JANE MOON DAIL