

Title: **Educators have special training**  
 Author: JOAN YATES Editor - The Link  
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# Educators have special training

JOAN YATES

Editor - The Link

The S.C. Department of Education has released mandatory training on dyslexia and related readings disorders to South Carolina educators.

"We must ensure that our educators are prepared to meet the needs of every student," said State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

"These trainings were developed in partnership with national experts and those in the field that understand the needs of our students with dyslexia. I am proud of the work that went into making the training modules and am confident that they will equip educators with the tools that will lead to student success," continued Spearman.

The training provides three Web-based training programs for educators to take.

The first one explains what dyslexia is and what is already known about it.

The second part of the program provides ways to screen for dyslexia and other

reading disorders, and the final segment equips educators with evidence-based instruction for students with dyslexia.

The training modules were part of a joint resolution that was signed by Gov. Nikki Haley and charged the SCDE to provide training on dyslexia and related reading disorders to all kindergarten through third-grade literacy coaches and teachers prior to the 2016-17 school year.

While the intent of the joint resolution was to provide information specifically about serving students with dyslexia, the content regarding effective evidence-based practices and instruction will be useful to help all struggling readers. These sound practices should be evident in all effective classroom reading instruction.

This cutting edge and easily accessible training is poised to become a national model, as other states are seeking resources and training to provide to their teach-

ers. In addition, South Carolina is continuing to improve its efforts to support all struggling readers, including those with dyslexia, in multiple initiatives including the S.C. Read to Succeed Plan and the S.C. Systemic Improvement Plan to increase outcomes for students with disabilities.

Several agencies worked together to develop the training modules, including the Aiken Learning Lab, Camperdown Academy, Tutor Eau Claire, Clemson University, University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Association of School Psychologists, the South Carolina Council of Administrators of Special Education, Learning Disabilities of America, and the South Carolina Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

The training modules and additional information on the trainings can be found on the SCDE homepage under "Dyslexia Resources."

Title: Airports, museum among losers in \$10 million budget cut  
 Author: BYSEANNAADCOX The Associated Press  
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# Airports, museum among losers in \$10 million budget cut

BY SEANNA ADCOX

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A revenue shortfall has cut \$10 million worth of spending from the state's \$7.5 billion budget, South Carolina's chief accountant said Aug. 17, as he cautioned legislators to save more and spend less on "nice-to-have" items.

The surplus for the fiscal year that ended June 30 came in \$10.3 million less than the Legislature expected.

By law, state Comptroller Richard Eckstrom must chop from the bottom of the budget's priority list for one-time spending.

"There are items on there that probably did not rise to the level of being high-priority spending items," Eckstrom said of the entire \$400-million-plus supplemental spending list.

The cuts hit the state's Aeronautics Commission the hardest; \$7 million was intended for maintenance and upgrades at the state's 51 publicly owned airports.

Agency director James Stephens said airports might

miss out on federal grants that provide 90 percent of a project's costs — benefiting competing airports in other states — or local governments will have to come up with the full 10 percent match.

"If we don't take advantage, our neighboring competitor states will come up with a way to secure the funding," he said last week.

"More people are on the roads, but it's a huge economic benefit to all of our communities to have the airports open."

Other cuts to Aeronautics include \$100,000 to upgrade its security system and \$150,000 to help recruit a nonstop international flight to South Carolina.

That effort requires market research, Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Charleston, said in June in successfully urging his colleagues to override Gov. Nikki Haley's veto of the item.

While Merrill didn't want to get specific, he said, "If we can get direct, nonstop

flights to Europe from South Carolina, it's a game-changer to the state for business and tourism."

The \$1.1 million cut from the adjutant general's office includes \$380,000 to South Carolina's National Guard museum.

The last item on the list was \$100,000 to the treasurer's office for a new savings account program benefiting people with disabilities created by law earlier this year.

This is the first time since 2012 that Eckstrom has had to cut anything.

In the past three years, his year-end closings have revealed larger-than-expected surpluses.

Eckstrom said he's concerned about an economic downturn.

"I think we're going to see some real stress this upcoming year," he said, adding the state's existing reserves might not cover a plunge in revenue, depending on the severity.

Title: **November general election ballots for Laurens County set**  
 Author: By Larry Franklin Publisher  
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# November general election ballots for Laurens County set

**By Larry Franklin**

Publisher

The ballots are set for the Nov. 8 general election in Laurens County.

Voters in different precincts will vote for different offices, with seven offices being voted on countywide. In addition to those seven races, all voters in Laurens County will vote to choose a new President and Vice President as well as voting for the county's representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lynne West, director of the Laurens County Voter Registration and Elections, said there are 60 different ballots that will be used in Laurens County, depending on the voter's precinct.

For instance, the ballots in Laurens precincts won't have

names for President or Vice President.

The remaining opening to determine the final ballot configurations closed last Tuesday at noon when the filing period closed for a Republican to run for Laurens County Coroner.

William Weir filed for that position and will face incumbent Democrat F.G. "Nick"

Nichols in November.

A candidate who filed previously for the Republican nomination for coroner, James Hayes, was removed from the

ballot by Circuit Judge Frank Addy Jr. and the filing period was reopened.

In countywide races, Republican Don Reynolds will face

petition candidate Stephane Williams for Laurens County Sheriff. The winner will replace incumbent Ricky Chastain, who was defeated by Reynolds in the Republican primary.

Running unopposed in countywide races are: incumbent Republican Eighth Circuit Solicitor David Stumbo; incumbent Republican State Sen. Danny Verdin (District 9); incumbent Republican Clerk of

Court Lynn W. Lancaster; incumbent Republican Auditor Jim Coleman; and incumbent Jay Wham, running for a non-partisan seat on the Laurens County Soil and Water District Commission. There are two openings on the Soil and Water District Commission, so write-ins will be accepted.

Coleman was sworn in as Laurens County Auditor on

July 26. He defeated David Tribble in the June 12 Republican primary and was then appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to fill the unexpired term after no one filed to run as a Democrat in November.

In S.C. House District 16, which include the portion of Clinton on the Thornwell side of Broad Street, incumbent Republican Mark Willis is being challenged by Democrat Brandon Greene.

In S.C. House District 42, which includes the portion of Clinton on the Presbyterian College side of Broad Street, incumbent Democrat Mark Anthony is being challenged by Republican Tommy Mann.

S.C. House District 14 incumbent Republican Mike Pitts

**Ballots, 9A**

the School District 56 candidates listed.

A sample ballot for each voter can be found at [SCVotes.org](http://SCVotes.org). Click on Get My Sample Ballot on the right hand column.

A number of the candidates are unopposed, but those races will still be listed on the electronic ballots, West said.

"All candidates are listed on General Election ballots as write-ins are possible," she said. A voter cannot write in

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# Ballots

## From 1A

is running unopposed.

There are four seats on Laurens County Council open in November, with only one of them being contested.

Incumbent Republican Joe Wood, currently serving as chairman, is being challenged by petition candidate Kaaren Mann for the District 2 seat.

Incumbent Garrett C. McDaniel is unopposed for County Council District 3; incumbent Diane Byrd Anderson is unopposed for County Council District 6; and incumbent David Pitts is unopposed for County Council District 7. All three are Democrats.

There are four uncontested races for School District 56 board of trustees, but the board will have one new member.

Incumbents Edna McGee (Seat 1), James David Barton (Seat 3 and currently serving as chairman) and Patricia E. Sadler (Seat 4) are all unopposed for re-election.

Kimberly Williams-Carter is the only candidate to file for

Seat 2 on the District 56 board to replace Rev. Donna Jacobs, who did not seek re-election.

In Laurens, there is one contested election for the four seats open on the School District 55 board.

For Seat 1, incumbent Terri L. Martin is being challenged by Charles Downey.

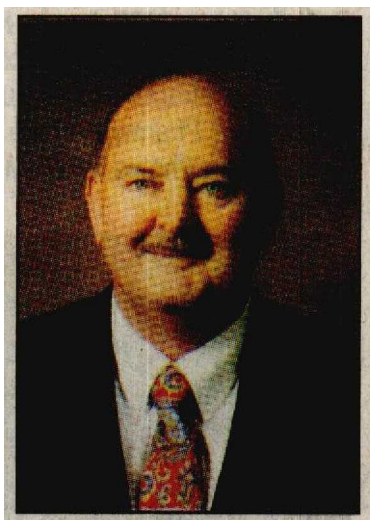
Incumbents Barbara Beeks (Seat 3), Anthony Carpenter (Seat 5) and Robby Bell (Seat 7) are all unopposed.

There are three candidates for the Rabon Creek Watershed Conservation District - Bobby L. Balcombe, Tommy Huffman and Roosevelt Lancaster. Voters will choose three candidates.

There are three candidates for the three openings on the Beaverdam-Warrior Creek Watershed Commission - Marcus E. Blackstone, Lesslie Blakely and T. Rhys John.

There are three openings on the Duncan Creek Watershed Commission and only two candidates - Roger D. Kuykendall and David McKittrick - so write-ins will be accepted.

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**Coroner F.G. 'Nick' Nichols**



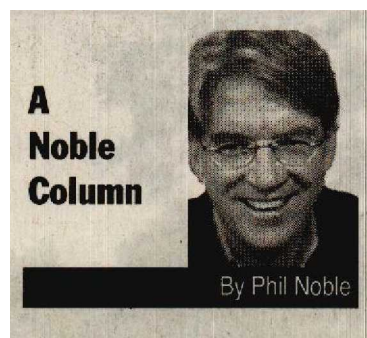
**Challenger William Weir**



Title: **E Pluribus Unum was unofficial motto of US until 1956**  
 Author:  
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# E Pluribus Unum was unofficial motto of US until 1956



ity, Islam, Buddhism, etc. all recognize some sense of 'one in the spirit' as the old hymn says, but E Pluribus Unum is about secular institutions – a government and a country – and that's a fundamentally different thing.

These types of musings about our national origins and aspirations always seem to obligatorily come forth in newspaper

columns such as this one around every July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays but there have been several things in the news of late that add poignancy. There are some new Pluribus in South Carolina these days. There is a new study out this week about who are the new people moving to South Carolina and the results might surprise you. The fastest growing group of New South Carolinians is Asians.

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columns such as this one around every July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays but there have been several things in the news of late that add poignancy. There are some new Pluribus in South Carolina these days. There is a new study out this week about who are the new people moving to South Carolina and the results might surprise you. The fastest growing group of New South Carolinians is Asians.

Though in absolutely numbers they are still small and only make up 2% of our state's population, in the last five years the number of Asians in the Palmetto State has grown to over 20,000 – an increase over this period of 26%. The largest group of Asians came from India. By comparison, Hispanic growth has been 14%, American Indians 10%, whites 6% and blacks 4.4%.

It's worth noting that Gov. Nikki Haley comes from an Indian immigrant family. E Pluribus Unum has never been easy; there have always

second (or third or fourth) sons of aristocratic families.

The first sons inherited the manor house and estate, the title and the seat in the House of Lords. Many younger sons came to the New World because their opportunities were limited in the Old.

E Pluribus Unum has always been about an aspiration of our greatest hopes over our darkest fears and from our earliest history there have always been politicians such as Donald Trump fanning the flames of suspicion, paranoia and fear.

It is nothing new in South Carolina, U.S. or even global history. Throughout U.S. history we have had politicians who scorned the Germans, Irish, Poles, Jews, Chinese, and Mexicans, and every other 'fill in the blank' immigrant group. These voices blame all of 'our' problems on 'them' and preach that if it we could go back to how it 'was' – then everything would be OK again. (Make our Colonies Great Again.)

This 13 letter phrase became an official part of the Seal of the United States by an Act of Congress in 1782. It was the de facto motto of the United States until Congress officially made In God We Trust the national motto in 1956.

But beyond being simply our unofficial motto, since even before 1782, E Pluribus Unum embodied the very spirit of us as a new country. This simple but profound idea is that we are all many – many different people of different origins, different histories, different religions, different colors, and different races – but all one, the People of the United States.

If you think about how things

have been over the last few thousand years, E Pluribus Unum is a pretty radical concept. For most of human history, we have been dividing people into two groups – us or them – and to have a country that recognizes that all of the "thems" are all part of "us," well, that's a big idea.

Various religions, Christian-

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It's ironic that a nation of immigrants would be so susceptible to periodic convulsions of anti-immigrant prejudice ... but we are.

This campaign season – both in the U.S. with Trump and in the UK with the anti-immigration hysteria that led to a vote to leave the EU – there is legitimate reason for concern about the rising fears over hopes.

But, although the fears never totally go away, the hopes do seem to usually win out. Somehow we always seem to be able to rise above our deepest fears and listen to our better angles – at least up until now.

In his short-lived presidential campaign, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley had perhaps the best line of the year when he said, "The enduring symbol of America is not the barbed wire fence, it's the Statue of Liberty."

And indeed it is.

*(Phil Noble is a businessman in Charleston.)*

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Title: **'Salute to business**

Author:

Size: 5.11 column inches

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**' Salute to business**

The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce has planned its Salute to Business Luncheon featuring South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. The governor will discuss how the state plans to position itself for the continued growth and success of new and existing businesses in South Carolina.

The luncheon will take place at noon Sept. 8 at the North Charleston Convention Center - Ballroom A, 5001 Coliseum Dr. in North Charleston. The cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. Call to RSVP at 843-761-8238 or 843-577-9549. Sponsorships are still available.



Title: **County jobless rate drops to 4.8%**  
 Author: BY UNDSAY STREET [Istreet@berkeleyind.com](mailto:Istreet@berkeleyind.com)  
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# County jobless rate drops to 4.8% Report: 8th lowest in S.C.

BY LINDSAY STREET

[Istreet@berkeleyind.com](mailto:Istreet@berkeleyind.com)

More Berkeley County residents found jobs—including the hundreds who joined the workforce—in July, leading to a sharp 0.4 percent dip in the county's unemployment rate, according to jobless numbers released by the state's employment office.

According to the latest data from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Berkeley County's unemployment rate in July 2016

has dropped to 4.8 percent, down from 5.2 percent in June.

The county now has the eighth lowest jobless rate in the state.

From June to July, the county's labor force grew by more than 400 people, and 740 more people found work in July. The workforce has grown by more than 2,000 people since July 2015 when unemployment was at 5.5 percent in the county.

"With the lowest county government tax millage rate in the

state, close proximity to two major interstates and the Port of Charleston, available land and building space, and a county government committed to recruiting and supporting business—this significant drop in our unemployment rate comes as no surprise. We will continue to recruit jobs to Berkeley County, so our residents can not only live here, but also work here," Berkeley County Supervisor Bill Peagler said in a statement released

through his spokesman Michael Mule.

Like the county, the state also saw a drop in unemployment. South Carolina's seasonally adjusted jobless rate for July dropped to its lowest level since June 2001. The rate decreased to 5.2 percent in July from 5.4 percent in June.

Over the county line, Dorches-

See **JOBLESS**, Page 6A

## Jobless

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ter County's jobless rate is even with Berkeley at 4.8 percent. Charleston County posted a 4.4 percent jobless rate, giving it the best rate in the state along with Lexington County, which also posted a jobless rate of 4.4 percent.

"When we talk about priorities like workforce training and investments in education and students, there's a reason we do it—it's paying off as July's unemployment rate dropped to 5.2 percent," said SC Gov. Nikki Haley. "We are excited to celebrate another month of record-low unemployment, that includes three straight months of decline, and we look forward to

keeping up the momentum."

Statewide during the last

month, unemployment declined by 4,858 to 120,788, while employment declined by 2,430 people to 2,182,646. This resulted in a decrease in the labor force of 7,288 people to a total of 2,303,434. July's numbers registered the third consecutive monthly decrease in the unemployment rate.

"We are encouraged to see the unemployment rate fall to levels not achieved in over 15 years," said Cheryl Stanton, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. "We also are heartened by the job growth we've experienced in the first half of the year as more than 32,000 people found

jobs and are now providing for their families. This reflects the confidence businesses have in South Carolina's workforce. We still have work to do matching the skills of the 120,000 unem-

ployed to the job opportunities around the state."

Over the year, the statewide unemployment rate fell 0.5 percentage points from 5.7 percent, with the number of unemployed down 8,310. The number of people employed increased by 60,603, and the labor force rose by 52,293.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained the same from June to July at 4.9 percent.

### Employment by Industry

July's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,700 over the month to a record level of 2,053,300.

The most prominent increases were in Professional and Business Services (+2,300) and Government (+2,100).

Growth was also reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+800); Education and Health Services (+400); and Financial Activities (+100).

The industries marking declines included Manufacturing (-1,000); Construction (-900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-500); Other Services (-400); and Information (-200).

This month's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up by 46,100 compared to July 2015.

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### Upswings in employment

were recorded in Professional and Business Services (+14,400); Education and Health Services (+8,000); Government (+7,400); Construction (+5,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,400); Financial Activities (+3,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,000); and Manufacturing (+1,700). Other Services (-500) and Information (-400) fell slightly.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

With a drop of 14,200, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in July hit a level of 2,053,100. Traditionally,

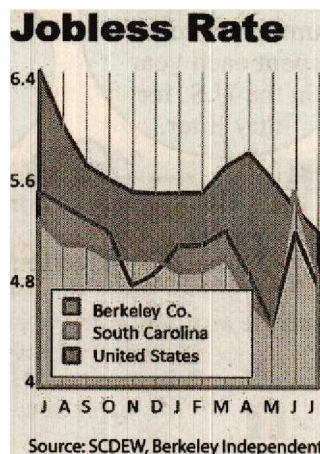
decreases in employment during the summer months are due to seasonal layoffs and school closings. Employment gains were noted in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+400); Leisure and Hospitality (+400); and Financial Activities (+100). Job loss occurred in Government (-11,200); Manufacturing (-1,500); Education and Health Services (-900); Other Services (-600); Construction (-600); Professional and Business Services (-200); and Information (-100). Mining and Logging remained the same.

Since July 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 45,400 overall with growth in Professional and Business

Services (+14,900); Education and Health Services (+7,200); Government (+7,200); Construction (+5,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,100); Financial Activities (+2,400); Manufacturing (+2,200); and Mining and Logging (+200). Employment fell in Other Services (-900) and Information (-500).

***"We are excited to celebrate another month of record-low unemployment..."***

**GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY**  
*South Carolina*



**Local jobless rates continued to fall in July, dropping to 4.8 percent in Berkeley County and 5.2 percent statewide.**