

Title: **SC Supreme Court will keep oversight of suit by rural schools**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 81.84 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



JUSTICES WANT UPDATES FROM LAWMAKERS, DISTRICTS

SC Supreme Court will keep oversight of suit by rural schools

■ The S.C. Supreme Court will continue its jurisdiction over a landmark 1993 school-equity lawsuit brought against the state by poor, rural school districts that say they need more money.

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

The S.C. Supreme Court will continue its oversight of a landmark 1993 school-equity lawsuit brought against the state by poor, rural school districts that say they need more money.

In its order, dated Tuesday, the state's highest court also called on S.C. lawmakers and the districts that sued the state to update it by June 30 on steps

both have taken to fix constitutional violations in the state's K-12 public schools.

The order is a response to the school districts' request for the court to stay involved in the case. That request came after state leaders asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit, citing the steps the Legislature already has taken

to address inequities in public education identified in the court's 2014 ruling.

The school districts have criticized the state for passing laws

calling for more studies – not immediate reforms – and for not focusing enough on helping poor schools.

But the court disagreed with those criticisms as “unnecessary and unfounded.”

It praised lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley for their efforts, saying it expected the state to study what would be necessary to ensure students in poor schools have access to “a minimally adequate education.”

The court also said it wants the school districts to report next year on their progress toward

fulfilling its 2014 order. In particular, the court wants to know

whether the poor districts have considered consolidation and “the prudence of creating school districts filled with students of the most disadvantaged socioeconomic background, exposing students ... to substandard educational inputs, and then maintaining that nothing can be done to improve those school districts' unacceptable performances.”

The school districts are happy with the court's order but disagree with its assessment of the state's progress toward addressing the lawsuit, said Carl Epps, the districts' attorney.

SEE SUIT, 7A

SUIT FROM PAGE 3A

“Our clients stand ready to work with the Legislature and Gov. Haley's office in a collaborative fashion, as they have always have been, to do everything

they can to help the students we represent,” Epps said.

S.C. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said the court's order validates the work his education task force has

done and also noted the plaintiff school districts “have failed to fully comply” with the court.

“Reforming South Carolina's education system requires more than legislative action,

and every interested party must work together to improve every child's access to a 21st Century education.”

Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

Title: **SC Supreme Court will keep oversight of suit by rural schools**
Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
Size: 81.84 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



THE STATE File photograph

Four-year-olds in a Jasper County preschool class listen to a story in 2006. Jasper County is one of the districts that has sued the state.

Title: **Prisons canbuy system to help locate contrabandcellphones**
Author:
Size: 8.52 column inches
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Prisons can buy system to help locate contraband cellphones

The Department of Corrections was given approval to proceed with a project to buy and install a system that allows correctional officers to find unauthorized cellphones within the state's prisons.

Members of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority approved SCDC's \$20,490 request to begin the process of installing the system, which makes it harder for inmates to use smuggled-in cellphones.

The agency has struggled to control the flow of smuggled-in cellphones for years. Agency Director Bryan Stirling has said the devices will be phased in at three state prisons first. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.4 million.

"It's terrible when you allow the inmates to have this much control," Gov. Nikki Haley said in support of Stirling's efforts.

— CYNTHIA ROLDÁN

Title: **Dems slow to jump into governor's 2018 race**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 57.04 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



SC DEMOCRATS: DAY 4 OF 4

Dems slow to jump into governor's 2018 race

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

As more than a half-dozen Republicans toss their names into the speculation about who will run for S.C. governor in 2018, the lineup of potential Democratic candidates has been slow to take shape.

State Rep. James Smith, D-Richland – a combat veteran of Afghanistan who weighed a run in 2010 – is the most hyped potential candidate to be the next Democratic nominee for governor.

But this week, the Columbia attorney said of his 2018 plans, “It’s not something that I think about.”

Democrats are slow to jump

A power no more

The fourth in a series on the plight of the once-powerful S.C. Democratic Party.

SEE GOVERNOR, 6A

FROM PAGE 1A

GOVERNOR

into the race for a number of reasons, they and others say.

Winning statewide has proven tough – almost impossible – for Democrats. Also, some potential candidates say they are waiting until after the November presidential election to make a decision.

If Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton can compete against Republican Donald Trump in GOP-dominated South Carolina, it could mean S.C. voters are ready for Democratic leadership, said state Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, adding he seriously is considering a run for governor at the request of several confidants.

“If Trump wins, you’ll have so much turmoil, so much despair, people will be willing to look at different alternatives,” said former state Rep. Bakari Sellers, who also is considering a run for governor.

Others say what happens

in November will have little bearing on a Democrat’s chances of winning the governor’s office.

Despite having to raise at least \$6 million while facing six in 10 odds of losing, a S.C. Democrat could see running for governor as preparation to run for another post, said Democratic pollster Carey Crantford of Columbia.

“To be seen as a force statewide” could help a candidate run for the Democratic-majority 6th District congressional seat – if and when long-tenured U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia leaves office.

“Essentially, that’s what the congressional district has become: the statewide Democratic office,” said Crantford.

WEIGHING COMPETITIVENESS

Kimpson said he is weighing his family’s needs and whether he can raise the \$5 million he says he would need to compete for the state’s

highest office.

Having won a special election to the S.C. Senate in 2013, Kimpson has been a vocal advocate of gun reform. He adds he is “not afraid” to talk about issues — including raising the minimum wage — that will energize the Democratic base.

Sellers is keeping the option of running open.

“It’s not something I’m saying ‘yes’ to, but not something I’m saying ‘no’ to,” said the Columbia attorney, who was the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in 2014, a race he lost 59-41 percent.

“I hope that I can still bring some positive things to the state of South Carolina in terms of a leadership position,” added Sellers, a CNN commentator and son of a prominent civil-rights figure.

S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison said Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela

and Johnston Mayor Terrence Culbreath also are among the Democrats to watch in 2018 – for the governor’s office or in other races.

Wukela said Tuesday he has not given the governor’s race much thought.

Asked why a Charleston newspaper had cited him as a potential contender for the Democratic nomination for governor, state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, said a State reporter was first to mention it to him, but he too did not rule anything out.

In a blog post, Democratic consultant Tyler Jones said state Sen. Brad Hutto, an Orangeburg attorney who lost to Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham in 2014, and former S.C. Superintendent of Education Inez Tenenbaum, who lost a race for U.S. Senate against Republican Jim DeMint, also would be strong candidates if they decided to run.

Tenenbaum said it was



Title: **Dems slow to jump into governor's 2018 race**
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
 Size: 57.04 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

nice to be mentioned. But, she added, "I'm not running for governor."

LONG ON THE BENCH

Smith said he gave a run for governor serious consideration in 2010, after returning from Afghanistan in 2008. But he decided not to run.

"It was just too early and too soon to make the decision (in 2010), having been gone so much, and to ask that much of my family

and myself," Smith said.

Instead, Smith's close friend and legislative ally, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, won the Democratic nomination in 2010 but lost the general election to Nikki Haley, then a little-known state representative from Lexington. In 2014, Haley beat Sheheen again — by a wider margin.

Political observers have said Smith's military service could appeal to moderate Republicans in a

pro-military state.

Smith says he has been working hard at his law practice and on legislative matters.

He also has been helping other Democrats. He is treasurer of Fran Person's effort to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney in the 5th District congressional race.

"It won't be long before South Carolina is electing Democrats all across, statewide on a regular basis," Smith said.

"The question is: When does that happen? Is it 2018 or is it four years from there?"

Asked whether he will help provide an answer to that question, Smith was noncommittal.

"There will be time to really consider the governor's race after this election is over."

———
Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

Title: **Goodbourbon starts with best wood, says barrelmaker**
 Author: BY RODDIE BURRIS rburris@thestate.com
 Size: 52.54 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Good bourbon starts with best wood, says barrel maker

■ **New Bamberg County business will make 30,000 oak barrels a year, targeting Southeastern distilleries.**

BY RODDIE BURRIS

rburris@thestate.com

South Carolina will crack the seal Wednesday on the only barrel maker in the state when Black Water Barrels cuts the ribbon for a plant at a 20,000-square-foot former Chevrolet dealership in Bamberg County.

The business will manufacture barrels from top-grade American white oak primarily for use in the bourbon industry, though owner Greg Pierce

said he also will target wineries and breweries.

Black Water Barrels is a \$4 million venture that will employ 21 workers to start, with plans to churn out 30,000 oak barrels a year with 60-gallon, 53-gallon

and 30-gallon capacities. The plant, located on Main Highway in the town of Bamberg, will also feature a retail center where Black Water Barrel gear will be sold.

Tours will also be offered for visitors to watch the oak barrels being made, Pierce said.

"The closest plant you can actually see that being done in right now is a Jack Daniels

plant in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and you can do that here in our facility. We're trying to drive as much traffic through here as we can off the highways," Pierce said.

Bamberg, a rural county south of Columbia with less than 16,000 residents, is the state's fourth least populated

SEE BARREL, 7A

FROM PAGE 1A

BARREL

county. Earlier this year, it had the state's highest unemployment rate at 10 percent.

Pierce, a Columbia native, said he chose Bamberg because it was listed by the state as a Tier IV economic development community, making businesses eligible for incentives for job creation and product development. He also likes the residents there. Tier IV counties are generally described as being the least developed in the state.

Zeigler Chevrolet, the town's only new car dealership, closed its doors in 2014, after surviving 40 years as a family-owned business.

Gov. Nikki Haley, a Bamberg native, and S.C. Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt are expected

to attend the opening.

Pierce said he plans to target distilleries throughout the Southeast for his barrels. He said his location in South Carolina will allow him to ship oak barrels to businesses in the Southeast less expensively than manufacturers in Missouri, where he said most businesses make their purchases.

Shipping costs can add about \$25 to the cost of an oak barrel, Pierce said. Cooperages, or barrel makers, in Kentucky and elsewhere also have union workforces, he said. "We have a lot of competitive advantages here," which also include the state's shipping port at Charleston and abundant rail service, he said.

Oak barrels are in greater demand, Pierce said, and he is talking with international clients

who are seeking the products, he said. Within 18 months of opening, Pierce said he hopes to ramp up production to 50,000 oak barrels. But the barrels will be made only after the oak ages one year in a warehouse in Barnwell.

Pierce spent 25 years in the spirits industry in various roles throughout the country, and people

frequently asked him where they might acquire more oak barrels, he said.

Oak barrels are required by federal law to be used to distill liquors such as bourbon. And bourbon must age slowly over time to be successful, he said. White oak is impervious to liquids and has been the choice for ages to produce barrels, casks, fine furniture and more.

Columbia is forging a small distillery presence, and those are the types of businesses Pierce might seek to align with. Pierce said he has brought in top professional barrel makers to train his workforce.

"We have thousands and thousands of dollars worth of product that has to sit in these barrels for years, so the choice of a barrel is very important."

Copper Horse Distillery, located in the Vista on Huger Street, has been in business in Columbia for four years. The company began manufacturing liquors in 2013 and started selling them in 2014. But, Copper Horse has sold no bourbon. That will change, owner Richard Baker said.

"It takes years of aging to make a really nice product," Baker said. "That's

Title: **Goodbourbon starts with best wood, says barrelmaker**
 Author: BY RODDIE BURRIS rburris@thestate.com
 Size: 52.54 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

why choosing a barrel is so important, because it's going to sit in there for years. You want to make sure that that product for the time investment comes out a decent product on the other end."

White oak has been



Pierce

used extensively for ship timbers, barrels and casks. Pierce said he gets his American white oak from Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Copper Horse uses a

53-gallon barrel and a 30-gallon made of American white oak from Louisville, Kentucky, and Minnesota. The Louisville cooperage Copper Horse purchases its barrels from get its white oak in Mis-

souri, Baker said, while the Minnesota cooperage uses a white oak grown in The Gopher State.

At the appropriate time, Baker said he'd be open to looking at the quality of Black Water Barrels.

Title: **Fuel is still flowing well to SC pumps, Haley says**
 Author: BY JANE MOON DAIL jdail@thestate.com
 Size: 32.55 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Fuel is still flowing well to SC pumps, Haley says

BY JANE MOON DAIL
jdail@thestate.com

Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday that despite a fuel pipeline leak in Alabama that has affected several states in the Southeast, South Carolina is getting a regular supply of gas.

Haley said she had a conference call with suppliers and reported that fuel is coming in as it always has. Haley asked South Carolina motorists to purchase gas as normal to keep the supply regular.

"The panic that is setting in is not helping the situation, because that's causing them to sell gas at a faster pace than they would normally sell it," she said.

Colonial Pipeline report-

ed it created a temporary bypass Tuesday after a leak was discovered Sept. 9 in the pipeline near Birmingham, Ala.

The pipeline supplies much of the East Coast with fuel from refineries in Texas and Louisiana, according to AAA Carolinas.

Colonial Pipeline was testing the bypass, which is about 500 feet in length, Tuesday afternoon to ensure its structural integrity.

The company projects the pipeline will restart Wednesday, though it will take several days for the fuel delivery supply to return to normal. "Some markets served by Colonial Pipeline may experience, or continue to experience, intermittent service interruptions," the

company reported.

Haley said state officials have not seen any price gouging yet, though customers might see an increase of up to 30 cents per gallon because of the pipeline bypass.

She said some cities that border North Carolina, such as Fort Mill and Lancaster, are seeing shortages because of North Carolinians crossing the state line to find fuel.

Haley said she has eight inspectors checking for shortages and keeping an eye on prices.

"Everybody has gas coming in and fuel as they need it," she said. "If it's out, it's just a delay."

The average price for a gallon of regular gas in Columbia sat at about \$2.07 Tuesday afternoon, though some stations

reported prices as low as \$1.81, according to gasbuddy.com. Though prices were up about 6 cents compared with last month's average, they were still down about 8 cents compared with last year's average.

The Colonial Pipeline delivers more than 100 million gallons of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, home heating oil and fuel for the military every day between Houston and New York City, according to the company's website.



Title: **Need a late-night ride home from a Bluffton bar? You have a new option**
 Author: BY LUCAS HIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com
 Size: 26.04 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



PEDICABS

Need a late-night ride home from a Bluffton bar? You have a new option

BY LUCAS HIGH

lhigh@islandpacket.com

Late-night revelers in Bluffton's Old Town have a new way to get home — pedicabs.

Bluffton Town Council voted unanimously Tuesday to change town regulations to allow bike taxis to operate until 2 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

The move came just weeks after a new company — the first of its kind in Bluffton — began operating in town.

Bluffton Bike Taxi owner Trey Snow celebrated the council's decision, saying it will be a major boon for his fledgling company.

Under previous town rules, Snow's drivers — who first hit the street in Old Town earlier this month — had to stop taking fares at 10 p.m.

The new regulations will "really be a nice change for Bluffton Bike Taxi," he said. "We appreciate all the hard work

with the town, and we are very happy to have these changes."

When Snow recently went to the town in search of a business license for the new company, town staffers "recognized (there were) some shortcomings to our code," deputy town manager Scott Marshall said Tuesday.

After studying how pedicabs are regulated in nearby cities such as Charleston and Savannah, the new rules were drafted, he said.

Marshall said for now there will two locations along Old Town's busy Calhoun Street thoroughfare where the taxis can gather and pick up riders.

While there still may be a few kinks in the pedicab regulations to be worked out, town leaders expressed excitement about the new way to get around the historic dis-

trict.

The pedicabs "are the talk of the town," Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka said.

IN OTHER COUNCIL ACTION

The council voted unanimously to request that Beaufort County Council consider an ordinance allowing golf carts to operate at night provided they have proper lighting.

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley recently signed a bill allowing properly equipped golf carts to be driven after dark, but Beaufort County leaders must approve the concept before Bluffton cart drivers can hit the streets after dark.

Port Royal is considering a similar request and the County Council is expected to begin considering the issue next month, Marshall said.

Lucas High: 843-706-8128, @IPBG_Lucas

Title: **Prisons get OK to crack down on cellphones**
 Author: BY MEG KINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 22.94 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



SOUTH CAROLINA

Prisons get OK to crack down on cellphones

BY MEG KINNARD

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

South Carolina's prisons agency got approval Tuesday to start implementing technology that can catch prisoners in the act when they try to use illegal prison cellphones.

It's not the cell signal jamming that the Department of Corrections has been seeking to use. But Corrections Director Bryan Stirling said Tuesday that being able to track down smuggled cellphones when they're turned on behind bars is a step in the right direction.

Stirling said the more than \$20,000 approved by the State Fiscal Accountability Authority will

fund engineering costs for a sophisticated system to be used at a handful of prisons that house some of the state's most dangerous inmates. And he says his agency already has the remaining \$1.3 million needed to fully fund it.

South Carolina has tried for years to crack down on the phones, thousands of which are confiscated in the state's prisons every year, smuggled inside hollowed out footballs, whisked in by corrupt employees and sometimes even dropped by drone.

Stirling said smuggled phones are "one of the most dangerous prob-

lems" he faces, giving inmates an unmonitored, unfettered means of continuing their crimes and even perpetrating violence. A South Carolina Corrections officer nearly died in a 2010 shooting outside his home that authorities said was planned by an inmate using a smuggled phone.

Guards have tried old-fashioned searches, metal detectors, even tech-sniffing dogs to find them. The agency says the Cell Phone Interdiction System approved Tuesday will be able to pinpoint their use to a single inmate's cell.

Still, it's a stopgap measure - what the director

really wants is permission to jam cell signals in the state's prisons altogether, using transmitters that render smuggled phones into paperweights. He's got the support of Gov. Nikki Haley. But the cellphone industry stands in the way, citing a federal law passed in 1934.

The law says the Federal Communications Commission can grant permission to jam public airwaves only to federal agencies, not state or local ones. The industry strongly opposes localized jamming technology, out of concern that it could set a precedent leading to much wider gaps in their networks.

Title: **Letter: No TRU waste shipments through July 2017**
 Author: BY THOMAS GARDINER tgardiner@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 31.46 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Letter: No TRU waste shipments through July 2017

BY THOMAS GARDINER

tgardiner@aikenstandard.com

A letter entered this week into the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility federal case indicates the U.S. Department of Energy has no plan for shipping transuranic waste out of South Carolina through July 31, 2017.

The letter was entered into court records by the South Carolina counsel in its case against the Energy Department. In its address to the judge, the state's counsel points to a declaration submitted during the case which expressed a potential pathway out of the Palmetto State for transuranic waste, or TRU waste, based

upon the expected opening of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP, in New Mexico. The semi-annual letter from the DOE is inconsistent with that declaration.

TRU waste is artificially made radioactive material contaminated with heavier elements, or those with higher atomic numbers, than uranium, including plutonium and neptunium. The letter was entered into court records by the South Carolina counsel in its case against the Energy Department on Sept. 15.

The lawsuit was filed by the state of South Carolina after the Energy Department

failed to meet a series of deadlines outlined by federal statute. The DOE was supposed to have construction on the MOX facility completed in 2014 or remove 1 metric ton of plutonium from the state by Dec. 31, 2015. The Energy Department didn't remove any of the required plutonium from the Palmetto State and the MOX facility has yet to be finished.

Please see **LETTER**, Page 14A

LETTER

CONTINUED from 1A

Figures vary on the completion percentage of the monolithic facility at the Savannah River Site, designed to process weapons-grade plutonium into fuel for electricity producing commercial nuclear reactors. The National Nuclear Security Administration, the branch of the DOE responsible for MOX oversight, has said the facility is between 20 and 30 percent complete.

WIPP is an underground repository for nuclear waste, located near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

According to multiple presen-

tations made to the Savannah River Site Citizen's Advisory Board, WIPP is in a salt basin facility that will allow time to encapsulate and seal in the nuclear material for long-term disposal.

WIPP operations were shut down after a truck fire underground in 2014. WIPP officials have been working toward an operational reopening which was expected in late 2016, although the facility remains closed to shipments.

In an email statement, Gov. Nikki Haley's press secretary Chaney Adams said, "This is

just another example of how the DOE says one thing and does another. As long as WIPP is not accepting shipments, this dangerous material remains at SRS. We have been clear: South Carolina will not be a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste. We are hopeful the court takes this new information seriously as it moves towards a decision in this case."

The case was heard in federal court in late June, but a decision in the case has not been published.

Title: **Domestic violence still issue, despite S.C. drop in rankings**
 Author: BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 53.47 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Domestic violence still issue, despite S.C. drop in rankings

State falls to No. 5 for rate of women murdered by men

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU

tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

A new report shows domestic violence issues in South Carolina may no longer be worst of the worst, but Aiken County appears to still be suffering.

A study released Tuesday by the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C., shows the state is no longer No. 1 in the nation for the rate of women murdered by men.

The report states that South Carolina has dropped from first to fifth in the nation in 2014.

"This is definitely good news," said Susan Seldon, executive director with the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Person in Aiken. "We have dropped a few ranks, but honestly, we still have so much work to do to get out of the top 10."

Every year for the last 18 years, the Violence Policy Center has released a study titled "When Men Murder Women," and every year South Carolina has ranked in the top 10, holding the No. 1 spot four times, including last year.

The drop in rank was accompanied by a drop in

the state's rate of women murdered by men: from 2.32 per 100,000 in 2013 to 1.73 per 100,000 in 2014, according to the report.

However, the 2014 rate is still higher than the national average of 1.08 per 100,000, the report states.

"Domestic violence is a really bad problem here in Aiken County," Seldon said. "We don't have as many homicides as some other places, but we do see a lot of abuse victims."

The Cumbee Center, 135 Lancaster St., provides temporary shelter, counseling and assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The center also offers counseling to offenders and education to the general public.

Seldon said the center has seen a lot of clients over the last year, but she said the good news is that those abused persons are seeking help, which is the first step.

Please see **VIOLENCE**, Page 14A

VIOLENCE

CONTINUED from 1A

"I think domestic violence is always going to be a problem until we tackle it head on," said Lt. Karl Odenthal, with the Aiken Department of Public Safety. "Our agency has been trying to take proactive steps to combat the issue."

Lt. Ben Harm, with Aiken Public Safety, said he recently applied for a domestic violence investigator grant, which would allow the agency to invest in a specialist investigator who would focus strictly on domestic

violence cases.

"Anytime we have a domestic violence situation, it's a serious problem," Harm said. "I think the fact that the state is no longer No. 1 for rate of women murdered by men is a good thing; but at the same time, we're still in the top five and that's isn't

great. I'd much rather see South Carolina in the top five for education."

Gov. Nikki Haley signed a domestic violence bill into law on June 4, 2015, which increased

penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders based on the severity of the attack, the number of prior offenses and other factors, such as whether the victim was strangled, is pregnant or was abused with children nearby. The bill also imposed a lifetime gun ban on the worst abusers and an automatic three- or 10-year ban in other cases.

"I think the state has made some great strides to try and combat this problem that we've had for a long time," Harm said.

The Violence Policy Center's annual report was done using 2014 data, which is the most recent year information is available, the release states.

The study covers homicides involving one female murder victim and one male offender,

and uses data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Report.

The study found that nationwide, 93 percent of women killed by men were murdered by someone they knew and that the



Title: **Domestic violence still issue, despite S.C. drop in rankings**
Author: BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com
Size: 53.47 column inches
Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635

most common weapon used was a gun, according to the release.

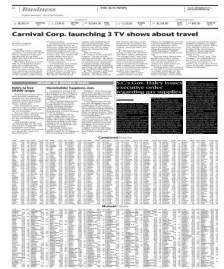
“Women are almost always killed by someone they know, and the majority are victims of domestic homicide. Local, state, and national policymakers must make preventing domestic vio-

lence a priority,” said Violence Policy Center Legislative Director Kristen Rand in the release. “Guns in the hands of abusers can escalate domestic violence to homicide in the blink of an eye. Removing guns from a domestic violence situation is

crucial.”

Tripp Girardeau is the crime and courts reporter with the *Aiken Standard*. Follow him on Twitter at @trippgirardeau.

Title: **S.C.'s Gov. Haley issues executive order regarding gas supplies**
 Author: The Associated Press
 Size: 19.37 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



S.C.'s Gov. Haley issues executive order regarding gas supplies

The Associated Press

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has issued another executive order to make it easier to keep gasoline supplies flowing to the state following a pipeline spill in Alabama.

The order declares that an emergency exists and waives some federal weight, size and length limitations allowing larger trucks on the road to haul fuel. The order also extends one issued last week waiving limits on the number of hours that commercial drivers can be behind the wheel.

A spokesman for AAA says the automobile club expects gas prices to continue inching upward as repairs are made to a pipeline that ruptured in Alabama, leading to scattered gas shortages across the South.

AAA spokesman Garrett Townsend said Monday that the organization expects gas prices to keep rising while the Colonial Pipeline is at less than full capacity. The spill was first detected Sept.

9. The leak of more than 252,000 gallons of gas in Alabama has led to gas shortages in several southern states.

South Carolina gas stations that may be affected are largely in the northwest part of the state along the Interstate 85 corridor.

The executive director of the S.C. Petroleum Council, Bonnie Loomis, says large sections of the rest of the state get gas brought into Charleston on tanker ships. As of Monday, the pipeline company was increasing truck shipments to gasoline terminals in the northwest part of the state.

Loomis says independent stations who buy gas on the spot market, as opposed to national retailers who have long-term contracts, could be affected first. She said motorists should buy gas as they normally do and not keep topping off their tanks. Topping off puts a stress on supplies and could contribute to shortages.