

Lexington
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148 Governor: State employment highest in history

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate recorded the largest one-month decline since 1983, falling from 6.4% in July to 6% in August. This marked the rate's third consecutive monthly drop.

Employment set a new record in August, increasing 2,771 to 2,113,743 people. Labor force shrank marginally, down 5,139 to 2,249,028 people. The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 7,910 to 135,285 from July to August. This is the largest ever one-month drop in the data series since its inception in 1976.

From August 2014 to August 2015, the state's employment level increased by 58,987 people; the labor force grew by 51,997; and the number of unemployed people decreased by 6,990.

Nationally, the unemployment rate fell from 5.3% in July to 5.1% in August.

"These numbers reflect the fact that more South Carolinians are working than any time in history," Gov. Nikki Haley said. "Whether it's another business expansion, another groundbreaking or another drop in our unemployment rate, there are great things happening in our state, and we should continue to celebrate the South Carolina success that people all over the country and all over the world are talking about."

Long joins ERA Wilder

ERA Wilder Realty recently announced the addition of Macy Long to its team of real estate sales professionals serving consumers in the Lexington area.

Long is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, a member of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce and the Central Carolina REALTORS Association. She is heavily involved in her community, volunteering at Palmetto Place Children's Emergency Shelter and Habitat for Humanity.



Long

"We are honored to have Macy join our team of professionals," said Eddie Wilder, President of ERA Wilder Realty. "With her work ethic and extensive knowledge of the Lexington area, I know



she will be a wonderful addition to our company."

"Of course, everyone that knows her loves her and she brings years of real estate experience with her on top of that," said Sally Rymer Hoard, Broker in Charge of ERA Wilder Realty's Lexington office.

Ads That Work

David Ogilvy's advertising sold millions of dollars worth of products and services. At the Chronicle VIP Club Master Mind Friday, Oct. 2, you will hear him explain why you should use direct mail techniques in all your ads. For details on this complimentary once-in-a-lifetime experience, call Ashley to reserve a seat at 359-7633.

SC Bar Offers Free Legal Clinics

The SC Bar Pro Bono Program will sponsor free legal clinics in Lexington County:

Sept. 24 — Consumer Law Issues from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pelion Branch Library (206 Pine St., Pelion 29123). The clinic will be led by Angela Y. Jones.

Sept. 29 — End of Life Issues from 6 to 7 p.m. at the S. Congaree-Pine Ridge Library (200 Sunset Dr., W. Columbia, SC 29172). The clinic will be led by Richard L. Bolen.

These seminars are free for anyone who would like to attend. The format typically consists of an overview followed by a question and answer session. A schedule of other upcoming seminars throughout the state is available online at www.scb.org/clinics.

For more information, call (803) 799-6653, ext. 158.

32 in a Row

Southeastern Freight Lines of Lexington County has been honored with Logistics Management's 2015 Quest for Quality Award for the 32nd year in a row. The Quest for Quality Awards are the gold standard for customer satisfaction and performance excellence for carriers, ports and logistics providers worldwide.

"We are honored to once again be recognized with this award by Logistics Management and its readers, the industry's most influential shippers," said Mike Heaton, senior vice president of sales and marketing, Southeastern Freight Lines.



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¹⁴⁸South Carolinians soften positions on rebel flag, gun laws

BY HAL MILLARD

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The tragic murders of nine black churchgoers in Charleston this summer appear to have had a profound impact on South Carolinians.

For the first time ever, a majority of South Carolinians said they support removal of the Confederate battle flag, which came down from the Statehouse grounds in the wake of the Charleston killings.

Only 33% still think the flag should be flying, compared to 54% who agree with taking it down, according to a statewide poll by Public Policy Polling (PPP). That represents a 31-point shift from just six months ago, according to the poll, which has a 2.9% margin of error.

Further, in a state where gun rights are held as sacrosanct, voters' attitudes towards gun control appear to have softened as well.

The poll indicated strong bipartisan support for a couple of pieces of gun related legislation: 89% of voters in the state support background checks on all gun purchases, compared to only 7% who are opposed. That includes 91% of Republicans, 90% of Democrats, and 85% of independents in favor. And 77% think there should be a waiting period before purchasing a gun versus 11% opposed.

"The Charleston shooting clearly changed a lot of minds about flying the Confederate flag in South Carolina," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Voters across party lines want to see some laws that make

it harder for the wrong people to get guns passed now too."

Other notable poll results:

Only 22% of voters would like to see Gov. Nikki Haley as the GOP vice presidential candidate, compared to 60% who don't think she should be. There's partisan agreement on that front with 68% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and 52% of Republicans saying they don't think she should be the VP choice.

66% of voters in the state generally think there needs to be an increase in the minimum wage, to only 30% opposed to that. 87% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and 53% of Republicans support moving that up.

62% of voters in the state support Medicaid Expansion, to only 28% who are opposed. Democrats (85/9) and independents (60/33) are firmly in favor of it, as are a narrow plurality of Republicans (46/42).

62% of South Carolinians support the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan to only 31% opposed to it. We've found this proposal to be very popular nationally and in key battleground states, but the 2:1 support for it even in a pretty red state really hits home how broad its popularity is. 80% of Democrats, 59% of independents, and even 50% of Republicans are behind it in the Palmetto State.

57% of South Carolinians think the state spends too little money on public education to 20% who think it spends about the right amount and only 12% who think it spends too much.