

Title: **Haley 'pleased' to meet with Trump team**
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT AND CASSIE COPE bmarchant@thestate.com, ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 81.53 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



STATE

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BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
 AND CASSIE COPE

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Gov. Nikki Haley met Thursday with President-elect Donald Trump in New York, but details of the meeting were scarce.

"Governor Haley was pleased to meet with President-elect Trump," said Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey. "They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington."

S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, the first statewide official in the country to endorse Trump, said Wednesday that Haley was a contender for secretary of state and one other post, speculated to be secretary of the commerce.

McMaster also said Trump's transition team had reached out to him about possibly being U.S. attorney general.

Haley's meeting with Trump

came a day after she was elected vice chair of the Republican Governors Association, a nationally visible post that puts her in line to become the chair of the GOP group in 2018.

Kellyanne Conway, manager of Trump's presidential campaign, told reporters at New York's Trump Tower about the Trump-Haley meeting, showing off a photo of herself with Haley. "We're

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"She's talented, capable and would do a good job in any assignment given to her," said Graham, a longtime Trump critic. "Nikki is a traditional Republican when it comes to foreign policy - more like Ronald Reagan than (Republican U.S. Sen.) Rand Paul. I like her a lot. I would certainly support her."

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However, S.C. Democratic Party chairman Jaime Harrison

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The nation's top diplomat needs to understand the country's history between other nations, and know

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An appointment as secretary of the U.S. Commerce Department would be more fitting for Haley, Harrison said. "She ran as the jobs governor," Harrison said, adding he gives Haley credit for helping attract major corporations to South Carolina.

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IVAN COURONNE AFP

Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway shows a photo of herself with S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley taken while the governor was visiting the president-elect Thursday at Trump Tower.



Haley

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STATE

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With chatter that GOP Gov. Nikki Haley and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster have been approached by President-elect Donald Trump's transition team about joining his administration, some are asking: What happens if one or both leave their S.C. posts?

IF ONLY HALEY LEAVES

If Haley gets a position in the Trump Administration — secretary of state or secretary of commerce have been speculated — McMaster would rise to the governor's office.

That would give the Columbia Republican two years in office before he likely would run again for the governor's office in 2018. McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, ran for the GOP nomination for governor in 2010 but endorsed Haley after placing third in the Republican primary.

That would leave the lieutenant

governor's office open, which would be filled by the president pro tempore of the Senate.

State Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, is president pro tempore of the Senate. However, the power of the Senate leader, who controls appointments to many state government panels, along with Leatherman's chairmanship of the Senate's powerful budget-writing committee far outweighs the influence wielded by the state's lieutenant governor.

In 2014, then-President Pro Tempore John Courson, R-Richland, resigned to avoid becoming lieutenant governor. Leatherman, 85, could do the same.

Senators then would elect a new president pro tempore, likely a Republican because there are 28 Republicans in the 46-member chamber. The senator elected president pro tem then would rise to lieutenant

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However, many say Leatherman holds more power now than he

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McMaster

Title: **State leaders' status prompts questions**
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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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The State

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THE TRUMP TRANSITION

Haley, Trump meet; did he offer a job?

Governor confers with the president-elect in New York, but no word yet on whether a Cabinet post was offered

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➔ **MORE INSIDE**

What happens if Gov. Haley, Lt. Gov. McMaster both join the Trump Administration? **6A**

SEE HALEY, 6A

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HALEY

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 Author: BY AUDREY HUDSON The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News
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How disasters are creating uncertain future for some SC farmers

■ Farmers across South Carolina were hit by a drought last year, and after months of praying for rain, the heavens opened in early October and dropped about 14 inches in 24 hours. Statewide, farmers racked up more than \$530 million in damage.

BY AUDREY HUDSON

The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News

AYNOR

The Double R Farm has produced abundant crops for four generations of Rabon family farmers here, and despite the double whammy of record rains during the October harvest last year and last month's hurricane, they are determined to weather the hardship.

"I'll do whatever I gotta do, even if it means I'm worn out and broke," said Ronald Rabon. "But if I make it this year, it will take a miracle from the Lord."

Tropical storm-force winds and 12 inches of rain from Hurricane Matthew battered 700 acres of his cotton just as the bolls began to open, resulting in hardlock that made picking nearly impossible.

They were able to salvage about 100 acres, mostly from farm lands tucked among wooded areas protected from the wind. Instead of 1,400 bales of cotton this year, the Rabons will likely end up with about 450 bales.

"I've lost more money than I made in two years," Rabon said.

The Rabons and farmers across South Carolina were hit by a drought last year, and after months of praying for rain, the heavens opened in early October and dropped about 14 inches in 24 hours. Farmers in Horry County racked up \$9 million in

damage, while statewide the amount topped \$530 million.

William Hardee III, Clemson University's area agronomy agent for Horry County, said farmers were on the path for a perfect crop this year – until Matthew hit.

Cotton was hit; soybeans and peanut crops also were severely damaged, Hardee said.

"We needed a perfect year to make up for last year, but this took our chance away," Hardee said.

Although the final damage assessment has not been tallied, Hardee said it appears the hurricane will not exceed last year's drought and record flood

destruction of crops.

"It's not doom and gloom, not the devastation we saw last year, but it was bad for a lot of folks, worse for some others," Hardee said.

Of 600 acres of cotton planted last year, the Rabons salvaged 200 acres that amounted to less than 350 bales.

"Now I'm telling you, it's been tough," said the patriarch of the family, 86-year-old Dock Rabon.

Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed \$40 million in farm aid this spring, calling it an industry bailout, prompting a backlash from farmers and lawmakers

who voted to overturn her decision.

That funding eventually paid about 25 percent of Rabon's

losses, and he was forced to refinance the 1,200 acre farm.

"I expected to make it up this year, but the cotton hit the dirt. And what didn't fall, hardlocked. It ain't looking good," Rabon said.

Nearly 800 farmers in Horry County have applied for assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture because of damage caused by Hurricane Matthew.

However, direct payments for damaged crops were eliminated in the 2014 Farm Bill, so aid is limited to emergency conservation problems, property damage, debris removal, leveling land or repairing fences for livestock.

State agriculture officials are still assessing the recent damage and officials are mum on whether any financial assistance will be forthcoming.

"Two years in a row is rough," said Jared Martin, who estimates he lost half of his 300-acre peanut crops because of Hurricane Matthew.

"We've got to have some help, I can't handle no more," said Martin. "Insurance don't pay nothing, and our government just ain't helping."

Martin and his father at the D and J Farm managed to pay their bills last year, with only

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I'VE LOST MORE MONEY THAN I MADE IN TWO YEARS.

Ronald Rabon

FROM PAGE 1C

SC FARMERS

\$2,000 left to split between them. This year, Martin said he will break even.

“I’m working all year for nothing,” Martin said.

Rabon and Martin are uncertain about their future in farming, and Martin isn’t willing to commit to planting crops next year.

“All I know is farming, but I guess I could go to

Wal-Mart and shake some hands,” Rabon said.

Rabon has reached out to state and federal lawmakers to let them know the severity of the damage, but he’s counting on private refinancing to pull him through.

“In all the years I’ve farmed, I’ve never had to call my congressperson or governor for help, we’ve always made a living,”

Rabon said.

Rabon says he’s not

looking for a free handout, this country?” but unless the Farm Bill is amended, he says farmers won’t be able to survive severe natural disasters, like the back-to-back harvest storms.

“When I’m dead, it’s over,” Rabon said. “My kids can’t make a living farming, and I don’t blame them. They watched me go broke and wore out.”

And when that happens, he asked, “Who will feed



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JANET BLACKMON MORGAN The Sun News

Ronald Rabon of Double R Farms in Aynor surveys the damage to his cotton crop from Hurricane Matthew. Rabon said he yielded only 100 acres of 700 acres of cotton this year because of the wind and rain from the storm.



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Ronald Rabon of Double R Farms in Aynor surveys the damage to his cotton crop from Hurricane Matthew earlier this month.

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 Author: BY JULIEHIRSCHFELDDAVIS AND MAGGIE HABERMAN New YorkTimes
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POLITICS

Trump team explores hiring son-in-law

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
AND MAGGIE HABERMAN

New York Times

WASHINGTON

Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President-elect Donald Trump, has consulted with lawyers about the possibility of joining the new administration, a move that could run afoul of federal nepotism laws and would all but certainly invite legal challenges.

Kushner, 35, had been planning to return to his private businesses after Election Day. But on the morning after Trump won, he began discussing a role in the White House, according to two people briefed on his discussions, who requested anonymity to

describe his thinking.

Trump is urging him to join, according to one of the people briefed, a sentiment shared by Stephen K. Bannon, the chief strategist for the White House, and Reince Priebus, who was named chief of staff.

Kushner has consulted with at least one lawyer and believes that by forgoing a salary and putting his investment fund, his real estate holdings and his newspaper, The New York Observer, into a blind trust, he would not be bound by federal nepotism rules, according to one of the people briefed.

Still, it is not clear that such an arrangement would be legal. Under federal statute, the president cannot accept voluntary services that are not permitted

by law, and a separate statute bars public officials from employing family members in any capacity.

Talking to Romney: CNN reported late Thursday that Trump will meet this weekend with one of his fiercest critics: 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, a discussion that could include the position of secretary of state.

Offer to Flynn: Trump offered former military intelligence chief Michael Flynn the job of national security adviser as he began to build out his national security team Thursday, according to a senior Trump official.

Flynn, who served as the director of the Defense Intelli-

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TRANSITION

gence Agency, has advised Trump on national security issues for months. As national security adviser, he would work in the White House and have frequent access to the president. The post does not require Senate confirmation.

The official wouldn't say whether Flynn had accepted the job, according to The Associated Press.

Meeting with head of state: Trump's transition pivoted on Thursday,

trying to leave behind the disarray of its first week for an accelerated schedule of official meetings, including Trump's first face-to-face meeting with a world leader, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. That meeting was scheduled for late Thursday.

Trump's aides have dismissed reports that the transition was in flux. They said that the news media and disgruntled people were stoking negative accounts, and that the

wholesale shake-up of the transition leadership ranks – including the ouster of Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey – reflected a drive by Vice President-elect Mike Pence to rid the operation of lobbyists.

Who might be in: Trump, who has continued to work out of his office in Trump Tower, was scheduled to receive a stream of visitors on Thursday, including Henry A. Kissinger, a former secretary of state; Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina,

who has emerged as a candidate for secretary of state; Adm. Michael S. Rogers, director of the National Security Agency and the top officer at the military's Cyber Command; and Gen. Jack Keane, a former vice chief of staff of the Army who has been a longtime informal adviser to Hillary Clinton.

Some of these visitors, like Haley, are candidates for Cabinet posts. Others, like Kissinger, were invited to give the president-

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elect counsel. During Trump's meeting with Kissinger, who led the State Department under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, the two discussed relations with China, Russia, Iran and the European Union, The Associated Press reported.

Keane, who has advised Republicans as well as Democrats, was an early proponent of President George W. Bush's troop surge in Iraq. He has called for more aggressive U.S. military action to counter the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Who's out: Newt Gingrich said Thursday he will not serve in the Trump administration in any official role, McClatchy reported.

The former House speaker and presidential candidate had been mentioned frequently as a potential top member of

the new government, possibly as secretary of defense, state or health and human services.

But he ended that speculation in an interview with McClatchy. "I will not be in the Cabinet," Gingrich, 73, said. "I intend to be focused on strategic planning."

He did not say whether the decision not to be in the new government was his or Trump's.

Question marks: The frenzy of speculation about marquee Cabinet posts continued, with Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, seen as a leading contender to take over the Department of Homeland Security. But Trump's staff appeared to be working on a more methodical schedule of interviewing candidates.

Still, the confusion of the first few days has left a mark. The State Department, for example, has had no role in planning for Trump's meeting with Abe.

Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor who is on a shortlist for secretary of state, is grappling with questions about his web of business ties, including to foreign states like Qatar, and the millions of dollars he was paid for speeches.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who is being considered for attorney general or defense secretary, has been criticized for racially tinged comments he made as a federal prosecutor in Alabama decades ago. Those comments helped capsize his nomination by President Ronald Reagan to be a federal district judge.



Kushner



ANDREW HARNIK AP

Vice President-elect Mike Pence meets with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Thursday.

Title: **Daufuskie Island loses a strong spirit**
 Author: BY DAVID LAUDERDALE dlauderdale@islandpacket.com
 Size: 124.15 column inches
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COMMUNITY GIANT

Daufuskie Island loses a strong spirit

BY DAVID LAUDERDALE
dlauderdale@islandpacket.com

Dave Hutton was a child of Daufuskie Island.

He knew it all – driving golf carts at age 7, rafting through freshwater wetlands, hiking out to hummocks to camp overnight, diving off the pilings at the county dock, the two-room schoolhouse on an island with no bridge and the 6:30 a.m. boat to Hilton Head Island for high school.

He also was a man of Daufuskie – standing 6 feet 8 inches and north of 400 pounds, with a rumbling voice from behind the beard, a booming laugh from beneath the long hair, and the laid-back, jovial lifestyle with his pickup truck and Daisy the dog.

When islanders gathered at the county dock on Thursday, Oct. 6, as Hurricane Matthew was obviously headed to hit them, it was natural that Hutton took charge. Everyone told where they'd be and said they'd check on each other after the storm.

They'd already made national news by defying the governor's evacuation order. She was going to send a posse to get them, like "Gunsmoke" by the sea. But they were branded the "Dau-

fuskie 100," like renegades, and they laid low.

They weren't really renegades, and Hutton proved it.

He had been elected to the Daufuskie Island Council, which tries to bridge the wide and choppy waters between islanders themselves, and between Daufuskie and the county seat.

When dawn broke on Saturday, Oct. 8, word was that everyone survived the hurricane. But trees were down everywhere, and there was no electricity. Winds were still stiff when Hutton and company started sawing their way out of the mess. They cut trees and pushed them out of the way for the next four days, 12 hours a day.

Then Hutton took his annual hunting trip with buddies to Montana.

And on Nov. 4, Daufuskie was still reeling from the hurricane when it heard that Hutton would not be coming home. He died out there of heart problems. He was only 27.

Deborah Smith, a fellow member of the Daufuskie Island Council, said, "Dave was a giant on Daufuskie, and it is impossible to overstate his importance

to our island's community. Dave didn't just live on Daufuskie –

SEE LAUDERDALE, 7A

FROM PAGE 1A

LAUDERDALE

he was Daufuskie."

'BY EXAMPLE'

Hutton came by his Daufuskie bona fides

naturally.

He's one of three boys born to Chris and Martha Hutton, all raised on Daufuskie. Chris was a child of Tybee Island who came to

Daufuskie to build the Melrose dock. Bud Bates introduced him to Martha, who had come south to be in a friend's wedding and never left. Her friends

were sailing the world and stopped on Hilton Head because it's where they ran out of money. Chris and Martha would soon have their own wedding –

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a dock party at Harbour Town.

Dave Hutton was a student of Catherine Campbell in Daufuskie's little grade school. He came along long after Pat Conroy made it famous with his book, "The Water is Wide." He came after teachers Jim and Carol Alberto had moved to Hilton Head but was warmly welcomed by Jim Alberto as his homeroom teacher at Hilton Head Island Middle School.

Hutton became a line-man for the Hilton Head Island High School Seahawks, getting home from school at 9 p.m. after practices. He won a writing award in middle school. He was one of the first kids to hit a baseball slap out of Crossings Park. And at Hilton Head High, he was elected Homecoming King.

He was a people person but also independent.

Between a couple of stints in college, he traveled alone with a backpack, touring Costa Rica by bus or studying the Mayan ruins on the Yucatan Peninsula.

As a toddler, he had insisted his mother give the change to charity whenever they got to a fast-food drive-thru window. He learned about public service from his father, a founder of the volunteer fire department.

"He led by example," said writer Roger Pinckney XI of Daufuskie. "I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone, and on this political island that's hard to say."

'HIS LAST GIFT'

Hutton liked to read history but kept an eye on the future.

And when he was elected to the island council, he read the entire plan-

ning document adopted by Beaufort County.

"He was really stepping up on the council," said islander Wendy Nelthorpe. "He was fair, and he loved Daufuskie. He cared about the island. He was a valuable voice for the people of the historic district."

His father, who also died young just two years ago, had helped create Daufuskie's community preservation plan. Dave Hutton shared the dream that Daufuskie would not be ruined by future development.

Everyone knew Dave Hutton was ill last summer.

In June, he fell off his backhoe. He thought some of that pain came from a cracked rib, but it was discovered to be many blood clots on his lungs, his mother said.

In September, they found an old blood clot

near his heart. He was going to get it tended to in January.

After a week in Montana, he awoke not feeling well. He died en route to a hospital, his mother said.

"He lived every day like it was his last," Martha Hutton said. "He had no regrets."

Daufuskie Islanders found solace telling stories about Hutton on Facebook.

Nelthorpe circulated a photo she took of him last summer. He was teaching a new generation of Daufuskie kids the art of dock diving.

"He ramrodded the initial (hurricane) recovery, his last gift to the island he loved," Pinckney wrote. "His spirit was strong, but his heart was weak."

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Title: **Daufuskie Island loses a strong spirit**
Author: BY DAVID LAUDERDALE dlauderdale@islandpacket.com
Size: 124.15 column inches
Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



DEBORAH SMITH Submitted

Dave Hutton's truck with his dog Daisy on board was a familiar sight on Daufuskie Island.

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WENDY NELTHORPE Submitted

Dave Hutton is shown at the county dock on Daufuskie Island last summer, helping a new generation refine the art of dock diving.



Title: **Bridgestone plant manager appointed to ATC's governing board**
Author:
Size: 19.99 column inches
Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tim Painter, left, the plant manager of the Bridgestone Aiken PSR/LTR plant, has been appointed to the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education. He is pictured with Aiken Technical College President Dr. Forest Mahan.

Bridgestone plant manager appointed to ATC's governing board

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley has appointed Tim Painter as commissioner to the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the governing board for Aiken Technical College.

Painter, the plant manager of the Bridgestone Aiken passenger and light truck plant, was formally introduced earlier this month during the commission's regular meeting.

Prior to arriving in Aiken in

May, Painter held several positions related to process engineering and operations management in Bridgestone plants in Tennessee. He also served as the director of process engineering in the Bridgestone Americas office in Nashville, Tennessee. He is currently in his 28th year working for Bridgestone.

Painter is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Title: **Some optimistic' about S.C. representation in rump administration**
 Author: BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER AND CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
 Size: 169.10 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



A higher calling?

Some 'optimistic' about S.C. representation in Trump administration

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
 AND CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley met with President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday in Trump Tower in New York City amid news her name has been floated around for secretary of state.

Haley's Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Godfrey said through email Haley

was pleased to meet with Trump.

"They had a good discussion, and she is very encouraged about the coming administration and the new direction it will bring to Washington," he said.

Haley's name first showed up as a

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Haley

from 1A

possible addition to Trump's cabinet after "Morning Joe" host and former Florida Congressman Joe Scarborough tweeted on Wednesday afternoon, "Sources tell me Donald Trump is now considering Governor Nikki Haley for Secretary of State."

Scarborough followed that with, "Trump has spent the past several days reaching out to political figures who opposed him in the Republican primary to fill major positions."

Later, South Carolina's Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster told The Associated Press he and Haley had both been reached out to concerning Trump's cabinet.

Haley has risen in the Republican Party ranks within the

past two years. She gave the Republican rebuttal to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address earlier this year, and Wednesday, she was named vice chair of the Republican Governors Association for 2017.

Her rebuttal addressed tension among the GOP, particularly with then-candidate Trump, urging the party to resist the "siren call of the angriest voices." Her speech didn't mention Trump's name, but was widely argued it was him who she was referring to.

She was praised nationally for echoing loud calls to take down the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds following the shooting of nine black churchgoers at the historic

Emanuel AME Church in Charleston in summer 2015.

Though Haley's meeting with Trump Thursday went well, the two have traded remarks back-and-forth, more critiquing than commending.

On Twitter, Haley was famously known for responding to a shot at her from Trump with, "Bless your Heart."

Haley's relationship with Trump appeared to have bloomed post-election following Trump's win over former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Haley previously endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio in the primaries.

Following Haley's meeting, Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, commended Haley's job as governor of the

Palmetto State in an email to media. "She's done a good job as Governor of South Carolina. She's talented, capable and would do a good job in any assignment given to her," he said. "I think Nikki is a traditional Republican when it comes to foreign policy — more like Ronald Reagan than Rand Paul. I like her a lot. I would certainly support her."

South Carolina Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, R-Edgefield, said it was great to see two representatives of South Carolina being considered for cabinet positions.

"I think that it's a cool honor for South Carolina that our governor would be considered for position like that," Massey said by phone Thursday. "It



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also shows just how hard Gov. Haley has worked.”

Both state Reps. Bill Hixon, R-North Augusta, and Chris Corley, R-Graniteville, who endorsed Trump early on the primary season, said it was also great to see two South Carolinians considered by the Trump administration.

Hixon called it “wonderful,” adding it shows just how Haley is well respected among the Republican ranks.

Corley said he felt McMaster would be a great addition to Trump’s team, but was unsure of Haley, given her lack of foreign policy experience. “We will have to see; this campaign has been full of surprises,” he said. “... But whether Nikki Haley or anything, of course after Hillary Clinton anything is (better).”

Even if Trump doesn’t choose Haley for secretary of state, Hixon added she should at least be considered for an ambassador position.

As far as future additions, Hixon said he’d like to see former House Speaker Newt Gingrich added to the team, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. For Corley, he’d like to see Texas Sen. Ted Cruz as U.S. Attorney General and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions as secretary of state.

Graniteville sees ‘hope’ in Trump, possibly Haley, too

Mel Minitor, co-owner of Minitor Market in the nearby Graniteville area, said he liked Trump, he voted for Trump, but he doesn’t think the South Carolina governor is ready to take such a high office.

“I don’t think our governor has done enough for this state. I haven’t seen where she’s done that much for this area,” he said, pointing toward a former red-brick mill, once a large employer in Aiken County and now remains vacant after shutting its doors years ago. “I just don’t see it.”

Trump’s “America first” message seems to have resonated with voters in the Graniteville area of Aiken County. Once driven by the textile mill industry, area residents describe little change since the industry experienced a downturn there and around the state.

Minitor said he comes from seven generations from merchants and boasts he sells meat and other goods better than nearby box store. He remembers when nearby mills were vital and providing jobs, such as one in eye distance from his store. He estimates the plant has been down since around the 1990s.

“This area is an economically depressed market,” Minitor

said. “You have folks like Weldon Wyatt and Christ Central, Megiddo that are trying, but I don’t think they are reaching everyone. A lot of people around here have given up. They are on Social Security, they are on welfare. We’ve seen our EBT market go up. Period.”

He said Recleim, a facility in Graniteville that recycles large appliance, brought some hope, but he would like to see more business in the area.

“We need to have factories. We’ve got to go back to building and manufacturing. If America is not manufacturing. What have we got?”

Given the community’s economic downturn, Trump, Minitor said, is “change we can believe in.”

Hayward Hancock, whose wife owns the swap shop across the street from the Minitor Market, was born and raised in Graniteville. He also voted for Trump, particularly because the president-elect is straightforward, his views of making “America better” and promise to get the unemployment rate down.

“A lot of people don’t work around here,” Hancock said, adding he used to work at one of the mills before it closed down. He now works at Recleim.

However, Hancock differs from Minitor. He thinks Haley

would make a great addition to Trump’s administration, as she’s had an impact on South Carolina as a whole.

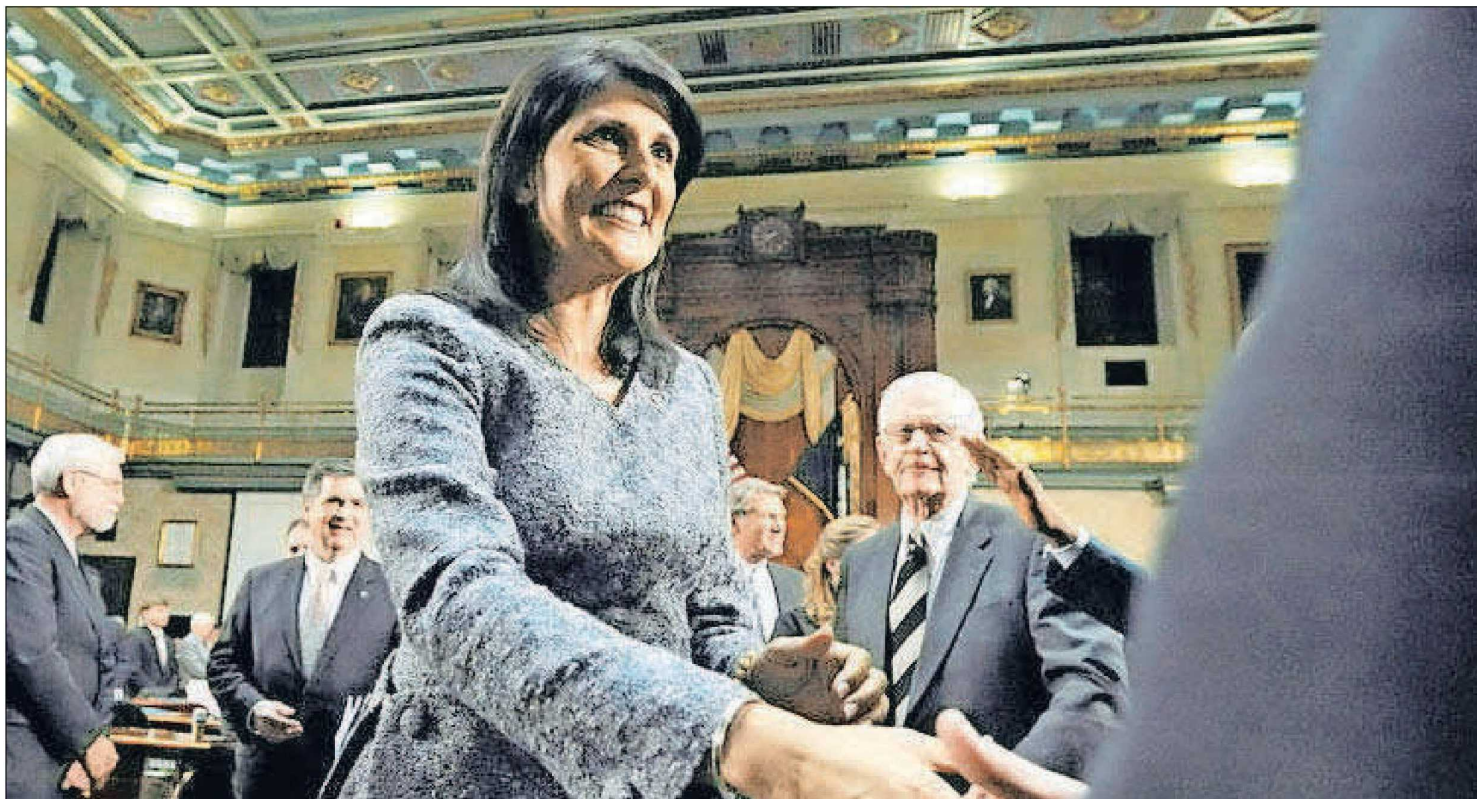
“I like her as governor,” he said. “I believe that would be a pretty good thing.”

“Graniteville, he said, “pretty much turned into a ghost town” as mills shut their doors right around and after the time of the Graniteville train wreck. The wreck resulted in nine deaths during the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 6, 2005, after a “northbound Norfolk Southern railway freight train derailed after encountering an open switch and collided with a parked train on a siding track,” as engraved on a monument in Graniteville.

Many pundits and government leaders have called Haley’s possible selection among Trump’s administrative picks as somewhat of a unifier between the Republican establishment. Hancock said he agrees with that premise, though to bring back communities like Graniteville, a house cannot be divided.

“If you’ve got two parties fighting each other over what’s going to happen, it’s hard to bring everyone together as one because everyone has their own beliefs,” he said. “It needs to be a two-way street. There’s got to be some compromise on both ends.”

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AP FILE PHOTO/RAINIER EHRHARDT

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has risen in the Republican Party ranks within the past two years and has been mentioned as a secretary of state candidate in Donald Trump's administration.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

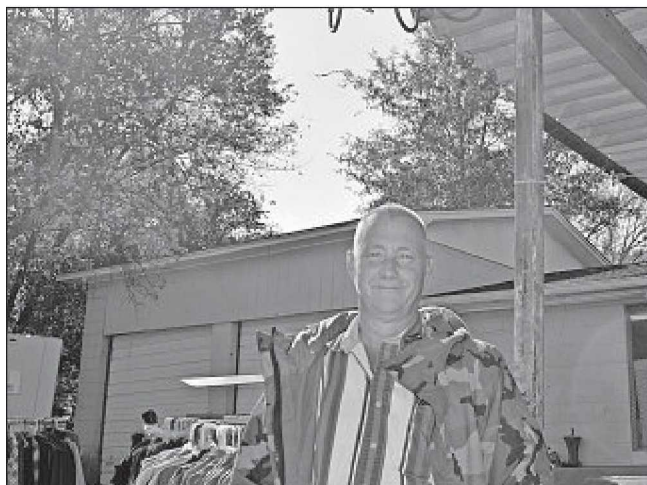
Mel Minitor, co-owner of Minitor Market, talks about President-elect Donald Trump and whether South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley would make a good choice for secretary of state.

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STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

Many local residents are optimistic President-elect Donald Trump could bring change to places like the Graniteville community. This view shows a former mill that now sits empty in the Graniteville area in Aiken County.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

Hayward Hancock said he's optimistic President-elect Donald Trump could bring change to places like the Graniteville community. He also supported S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's name being thrown into the mix of possible administration appointments.